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KENT ON SUNDAY

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MUM RECEIVES 'VILE' DEATH THREATS OVER FACEBOOK CAMPAIGN

Protest at Muslim march in Wootton Bassett

PAYING RESPECT: Wootton Bassett

A MOTHER-OF-FOUR has been subjected to death threats after starting a campaign to stop a protest march by Muslim hardliners through Wootton Bassett.

By NICK AMES

Jo Cleary, from Broomfield, Herne Bay, set up a Facebook site calling for extremist leader Anjem Choudary and his followers to be barred from carrying coffins through the town where residents line the streets to mourn as the bodies of slain service personnel arrive back in the UK.

Choudary, who was born in Welling, Bexley, leads the group Islam4UK which says its march would symbolise Muslims killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

More than 700,000 people have signed up to Mrs Cleary's campaign – but in the last few days she has found herself on the end of abuse and threats to her life over the internet.

Other hate-filled messages have been directed at the grieving families of British soldiers killed in action. It is believed the messages have been sent by self-styled 'anti-fascists' and are not the work of any ethnic or religious group.

The death threats have also been reported to the police, who have offered her protection.

Mrs Cleary, 43, said: "I am absolutely livid at these threats, but they will not stop my campaign. I have been branded as a BNP member – which I most certainly not – and my life has been threatened in the most abusive language.

"There have even been threats made to the families of those who have given their lives for this country. It is beyond belief – these are horrific emails with vile, vile threats."

Photographer Mrs Cleary set up her group after a former soldier told her of the plans for the Islam4UK march through the Wiltshire town which has come to symbolise Britain's respect for war dead. Residents quietly line the streets in honour of the memory of those whose bodies arrive at RAF Lyneham from Afghanistan.

On Tuesday, hundreds of mourners paid their respects to Rifleman Aidan Howell, from Sidcup, when his body was flown back in the UK. The 19-year-old, from the 3rd Battalion, The Rifles, was killed in an explosion in the Kajaki area of Helmand Province on December 28.

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE

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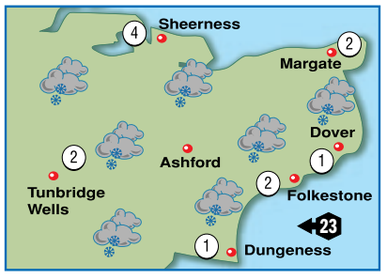

TODAY: Overcast and grey with outbreaks of light sleet and snow at times. Very cold again with a fresh easterly wind. Icy in places. Max temp 1-4C (34-39F).
TONIGHT: Mostly cloudy with the odd snow flurry possible. Moderate easterly winds. Frosty and icy. Min temp -2 to 1C (28-32F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	4	39	London	cloudy	3	37
Belfast	cloudy	3	37	Liverpool	cloudy	4	39
Birmingham	cloudy	3	37	Manchester	cloudy	3	37
B'mouth	snow	2	36	Newcastle	sleet	4	39
Bristol	snow	2	36	Norwich	snow	3	37
Cardiff	snow	3	37	Oxford	snow	2	36
Cork	snow	2	36	Southsea	snow	3	37
Edinburgh	cloudy	4	39	S'hampton	snow	2	36
Glasgow	cloudy	3	37	Southport	fair	5	41
Isle of Man	fair	5	41	Swansea	snow	3	37
Leeds	cloudy	2	36	Torquay	snow	2	36

Sun & moon

Sunrise	7.59am	Sunset	4.07pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	4.03am	Moonset	11.54am	4.07pm to 7.58am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	06.37	5.7	19.24	5.5	07.51	5.6	20.33	5.6
Margate	07.36	4.1	20.16	4.0	08.49	4.1	21.27	4.1
St Mary's	00.13	4.5	12.48	4.4	01.28	4.5	14.01	4.5

Week ahead

monday Cloudy. Dry. max 2C min -3C
tuesday Cloudy. Dry. max 1C min -2C
wednesday Rain and snow. max 3C min 0C
thursday Showery rain. max 4C min 0C
friday Cloudy. Dry. max 4C min 0C
saturday Patchy rain. max 5C min 1C

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As County Hall promises its gritters can handle further snow

Salt stocks can cope

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT County Council insists it is better prepared than most other local authorities to cope with any national road salt shortage.

Heavy snow and thick ice has led to numerous accidents, breakdowns and road closures throughout the region, with the Met Office predicting further snow showers over the next few days.

KCC's announcement that its gritters will be able to cope with the onslaught is in stark contrast to its concerns earlier this week that replacement stocks currently on order may be redirected by central government to other parts of the country in greater need.

Cabinet member for highways Cllr Nick Chard said: "We still have adequate quantities of salt because we have planned well in advance. There's still a good several thousand tonnes left. At the moment we are fine and are trying to replenish our stocks as we would normally do, but it really depends how much salt on order actually arrives."

On December 16, KCC had about 18,000 tonnes of salt in storage – enough to last for 20 days of continuous freezing.

Cllr Chard would not be drawn on exactly how much was left, but said it was probably enough to last another fortnight.

He said: "We have better stocks and are in a better condition than a lot of other authorities in the country."

Prioritising

Meanwhile, a Facebook group set up to pressure KCC into gritting pavements as well as roads attracted more than 1,000 members in two days.

The campaign is the brainchild of Maidstone Green Party Parliamentary candidate Stuart Jeffery, who said the authority was failing to protect vulnerable residents by not ensuring paths were safe.

He added: "Staff who are out gritting roads are working hard and we thank them, but KCC needs to ensure more money, workers and grit is available to clear pavements as well.

"As a bare minimum they need to be providing salt bins for residents' use and prioritising hills, schools and local shops for pavement grit.

"The campaign on Facebook has attracted massive support in just a few days, showing the strength of feeling by people who need to use pavements."

Cllr Chard admitted that criticism of the authority's pavement gritting operation was valid, but that workers had made sure paths in the town centres were now safer to walk on.

SNOW BUSINESS: While many around the county struggled to get to work, others took advantage of the adverse conditions which hit the whole of Kent

Headteacher ploughs on

THOUSANDS of schoolchildren have enjoyed even more time off school as headteachers across Kent chose to keep their doors firmly shut against the snow, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

While workers battled against the bitter elements to get to their desks on Friday, more than 400 schools and nurseries stayed closed in what was the third day in a row for many.

This was despite a plea from the Government urging them to reopen where possible.

With schools remaining closed, some parents were also forced to stay off work to take care of their children.

But for one headteacher in Kent it was business as usual, with parents even shovelling the snow out of the way of the school gates so children could be dropped off.

"We've never closed in the 10 years I've been here," said Malcolm Goddard, headteacher of Lunsford Primary School, in Aylesford.

"I'm fortunate enough to live close to the school so it's easy for me to make a decision as to whether to close or not. I would never have a half day either as it would just cause chaos. When we're open, we're open."

Mr Goddard's no-nonsense view could make others hang their heads in shame, particularly as two other schools – situated on the same

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on our roads a Facebook campaign highlights danger on paths

with another deluge

Pictures: KAROL STEELE and ANNA WHITE

KOS Media will be taking to the skies this weekend to help deliver essential supplies to areas cut off by the Arctic blast.

The publisher of this newspaper teamed up with Rochester-based charter helicopter firm AV8 to fly direct to some of the areas struggling under the snow to hand deliver milk, bread and, of course, copies of our newspapers.

On the flight is our very own Julie Maddocks – making a triumphant return to the skies. The presenter of our online web TV channel, www.yourkenttv.co.uk, made her name in the 1980s as Julie Jambuster – reporting from the skies above Kent for commercial radio station Invicta.

She explained: "We thought rather than just report on the weather chaos we should get out there and help the people most in need.

"As long as the weather conditions permit it, we'll be dropping in on those areas most in need.

• For the full story, see next week's newspaper.

To see this clip search 'snow' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Julie Maddocks discovers how people are coping with Kent's sub-zero temperatures

'I do not have an issue with Islam – just the location'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

With family connections to the Army, Mrs Cleary (pictured) has long campaigned for support for troops and welfare for veterans.

"When I heard about this hugely insensitive proposal I was incensed," she said. "I considered it sacrilege.

"The people of Wootton Bassett have taken the military to their hearts and they should be applauded for doing so. It is not a matter of politics – it is a matter of grief. I have never been to the town when it is grieving and I have no intention of doing so. It is a private matter.

"When I set up the site I thought there would be a few people who signed up and we could all have a bit of a rant.

"I never thought it would spiral in the way that it has. But it just shows the strength of feeling against this proposed march.

"In my work in supporting the families of the bereaved I deal on a day-to-day basis with grieving and even suicidal people.

"They have taken strength from the support shown by the people of one small town. That is what needs to be respected – not used for some cheap political stunt.

"I do not have any issue with Islam. In fact, I have received messages of support from some Muslim groups and I would like to express how grateful I am for that.

"Even the protest itself I do not have a problem with – it is just the location.

"If they want to make a political protest do it in Downing Street so the politicians will be made aware of their feelings.

"They are the ones who can make changes – not the butchers and bakers of Wootton Bassett."

in face of school closures

site as Lunsford Primary – remained shut, blaming the weather.

On Friday, 95 per cent of his 220 pupils turned up, and those who were absent were ill.

Although Kent County Council said the decision to close is ultimately in the hands of the headteacher, the authority does offer some guidance.

A spokesman said: "Our express wish is for schools to remain open, but this all depends on the conditions of the roads and how far away the teachers and pupils live.

"There are health and safety guidelines they must follow, but it's really a decision for the teachers and governing body to make. The school has local knowledge and we therefore trust them to make the right decision."

On Wednesday, 51 schools closed and on Thursday and Friday more than 100 on both days. These figures do not include nurseries and other educational centres.

In total, it was estimated that 450 establishments were shut over the three days.

However, in many schools, every member of staff was called to make sure they turned up.

And next week, with the January examination period starting, contingency plans are being put in place to ensure they go ahead.

Commuters slam rail firm

NIGHTMARE journeys of up to 12 hours through the snow and ice left rail passengers cursing the lack of preparation by train operator Southeastern, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Severe weather conditions led to a series of breakdowns and lengthy delays on Wednesday night, with commuters complaining of freezing cold carriages, no food or water being offered and a lack of communication from staff.

A Southeastern spokesman said the operator did everything it could to ensure people got home as quickly as possible.

He added: "We have been working around the clock to run de-icer trains and empty 'ghost' trains (to keep the rails free of snow), and to communicate with passengers about the revised timetable."

Ashford resident Glen Rosser caught the 4.38pm train from London Victoria but did not make it home until 4.22am – an incredible journey time of almost 12 hours. He said: "There was no sign of food or a glass of water and no offers of vouchers or anything.

"I feel Southeastern could do with a bit of a lesson in regards to customer service."

Meanwhile, cross-Channel operator Eurostar was forced to announce a restricted service on Friday after a train broke down in the tunnel and three others were forced to turn back.

The breakdown echoed a series of similar incidents caused by last month's snow, which this week prompted North Thanet Tory MP Roger Gale to call for a viable alternative to the service.

He said: "Eurostar's effective monopoly is not in the public interest and I do not believe the travelling public is at present receiving the best or even a satisfactory level of service.

"The fresh air of competition might remind Eurostar's chief executive and his team who they are working for."

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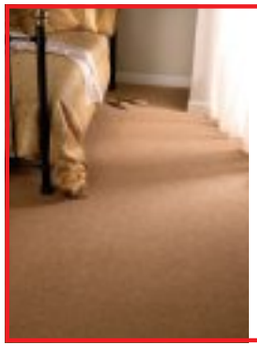

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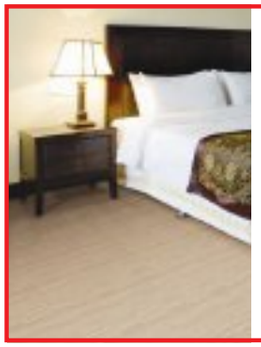

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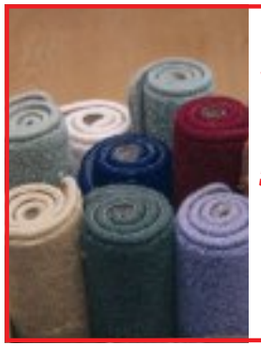

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Ben Inter a shot at big time with Jose

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

FOOTBALL fanatic Ben Greenhalgh could swap Orpington for Italy after reaching the finals of a television competition to find the sport's next star.

The 17-year-old Darrick Wood School pupil is one of 10 youngsters battling it out for a contract with Serie A champions Inter Milan – currently managed by former Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho.

Ben's attempts to impress the self-proclaimed 'Special One' form part of the new Sky1 show Football's Next Star, which kicked off last Sunday.

Throughout the course of the seven-part series the youngsters will work with the likes of Mourinho and former England star Jamie Redknapp to hone their skills and hopefully win a contract at the San Siro.

Picture: ENDEMOL
Picture: GETTY

SPECIAL ONE: Inter Milan boss Jose Mourinho is waiting to see if Ben Greenhalgh – pictured (inset, right) with Cristiano Ronaldo – can win a contract with the Italian club

Megastar

Filming for the show – which also saw Ben rub shoulders with Real Madrid megastar Cristiano Ronaldo – was completed last October, but Ben was keeping tight-lipped about how the competition ended.

He said: "I'm not allowed to give anything away, but it would certainly be life-changing to win the chance to play for Inter.

"As soon as I found out I would be going to Italy for a month I knew I had to take it seriously, because you don't receive this sort of opportunity every day. You've got to believe you're going to go all the way.

"When we were out there they were saying it was between me and one other guy, but I just tried to relax and enjoy the experience rather than get nervous and worry about things."

Left-winger Ben earned his place in the finals after impressing the judges at one of several national roadshows, which he was entered into by his Kent youth team coach.

He eventually made the final 10 after impressing Inter youth coaches Paolo Migliavacci and Marco Monti, the latter of whom oversaw the youngsters' progress during their time in Italy and was responsible for deciding who would leave the competition from week to week.

The San Siro is a long way from Welling United's Park View Road, which was where Ben was originally planning to play his football this season.

He said: "There were a lot of problems because I had just signed a contract with Welling before I took part in the competition, but because I was 18 I was able to get out of it.

"In the end Welling were quite good about it, but it was quite stressful because it still hadn't been sorted out the night before the people on the show needed it to be.

"I joined Welling because the manager [Jamie Day] said a professional club would see me and sign me up, but I felt it was a better opportunity to take part in this competition and hopefully get snapped up by Inter."

• ***Football's Next Star can be seen tonight at 8pm on Sky1.***

Property report

IF YOU are thinking of buying or selling your home in 2010, or want to enter the rental market, our Property Market Report 2009-10 is a must-read this weekend.

In the report, free in today's Review magazine, property experts analyse what happened last year and predict market activity for 2010.

Our report is aimed at buyers, sellers and professionals alike in Kent, so turn to Review to find out if your home will be worth more this year, or if lenders will be keen to offer you a mortgage. There's also expert advice for first-time buyers and for sellers who have been delaying putting up the 'For Sale' sign.

RUSSELL Brand caused a stir at the Marlowe Arena in Canterbury when he showed up to watch Peter Pan.

The controversial comic attended the panto to support his friend Adrian Edmondson, who plays Captain Hook. A spokesman said: "When Russell walked in a whisper went round the entire audience and we had about 1,200 people all trying to catch a glimpse of him."

To see this clip search 'iPhone' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Discover the new free KOS Media iPhone application

Chief Constable's future to be decided this week

KENT'S Chief Constable Mike Fuller will find out this week if he is to be offered the top job at the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mr Fuller – who is Britain's first black police chief – has been selected by Attorney General Baroness Scotland as the preferred candidate to become Chief Inspector of the CPS.

Members of the Justice Committee in the House of Commons – including Bromley and Chislehurst MP Bob Neill – are due to make their decision on Tuesday, with an official announcement expected soon after.

Should Mr Fuller land the job, it is rumoured his deputy, Adrian Leppard, will fill the Chief Constable position on a temporary basis until a permanent replacement is found.

MIKE FULLER

Speaking to KOS Media shortly after his name was put forward last month, Mr Fuller stressed the deal was far from done.

He said: "I'm not gone yet, but I have been through the selection process and I've been put forward as the preferred candidate, but the MPs might disagree.

"It is quite an unusual thing for the CPS to look outside the service for this role. I have engaged with the CPS from the other side of the fence, so am able to see where improvements could be made from an operational angle."

Mr Fuller joined Kent Police as chief constable in January, 2004, having previously been with the Met since starting as a cadet in 1975.

Under his leadership the county has seen the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing Teams – 14 specialist units aimed at combating low-level crime – while also securing the use of a police helicopter as part of a joint working agreement with Essex.

Mr Fuller also holds honorary doctorates of law and is a non-practising barrister, having been called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in July, 2007.

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Converted railway shed dedicated to choice earns top BBC food accolade

GOOD TASTE: Customers at the Goods Shed decide which stallholders get to stay by voting with their pockets, while owner Susanna Sait plans to expand the services on offer

Coming up with the goods

By **JENNY ARMSTRONG**
jenny.armstrong@kosmedia.co.uk

EIGHT years after opening, the Goods Shed in Canterbury has won a prestigious BBC food and farming award – but what makes it so special?

With famed playwright David Hare commissioning pink grapefruit marmalade from stallholder Patrick Williams, a Master of Wine in the building, and local pheasant and Dover sole on sale, it seems surprising it has not had more recognition.

Before owner Susanna Sait bought the redundant railway building, in Station Road West, it was earmarked for demolition.

But now the Goods Shed is thriving and just before Christmas won the BBC's best food market award.

Mrs Sait said: "It's been a nice, steady climb. The people who gave us the award said what really makes it interesting is that we let the traders get on with it.

"We let economics dictate a bit and let the customer decide what stays and what goes, rather than supplement and subsidise.

TASTEFUL: Susanna Sait, centre, with a Goods Shed stallholder and a customer

"It's full of eclectic characters, like a little community."

The market houses Simon's Fish Counter, which sells catches from boats around the Kent coast.

Next to that is the butchers, which sells everything from local bacon to wild rabbits and trotters. Further on is Murray's General Stores which stocks dry goods, milk, hams and ales.

Nearby is Enzo's Bakery with cooks from Naples and a Master of Wine – of whom there are only a few hundred in the world – selling his goods.

There is also a sandwich counter which uses local bread; a cured meat stall; Tom's Cheese Counter which sells unpasteurised cheese such as local Ashmore Ancient; and a vegetable co-operative which represents local farms.

There is also Patrick's Kitchen, which was nominated for the best takeaway award. He believes in good food and old-fashioned personal service, and creates delicacies such as poached pear and walnut brownies; and chicken, mushroom and tarragon pie.

But the owner will not let the Goods Shed rest on its laurels. Mrs Sait has plans for selling raw milk by the gallon, creating an orchard around the building and having butter-making days.

She said: "If you want to keep choice alive, you have to vote with your pocket.

"This is really just to give people choice beyond the big supermarkets. I can only say to people, try our goods with a broad mind. People like it, it's great."

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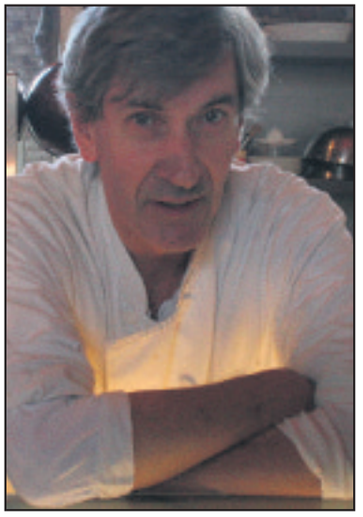

TOP NOSH: Patrick Williams' outlet was nominate for the best takeaway award

Team's Polar pride

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A TRAVEL writer missed out on Kent's snowy weather this week – by leading an all-women expedition to the South Pole.

Explorer Felicity Aston, from Birchington, trekked 495 nautical miles over 40 days with her team, which was made up of women from six Commonwealth countries.

As well as promoting the accomplishments of women worldwide, the trip marked the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Commonwealth.

Stephanie Solomonides, from Cyprus, and Era Al-Sufri, from Brunei Darussalam, were the first people ever from their countries to make the polar trek. And Reena Kaushal Dharmshaktu, 38, from India; Kylie Wakelin, from New Zealand; and Sophia Pang, 36, from Singapore, were the first women from their countries to do so.

Weeping

Also making up the team was Helen Turton, who flew the British flag alongside Ms Aston. Another member of the team was unable to complete the trip.

Speaking on satellite phone, Ms Aston told Kent on Sunday about the "unbelievable" moment she and her team reached the Pole.

"As I led the women in, even though they had their masks on, I knew every one of them was weeping," she said.

"This expedition was about showing what women from different backgrounds can do."

Since completing the trek, the 31-year-old has been staying in a hotel rather than a tent, but admits to missing her comrades.

"We were in each others pockets for 40 days. We saw each other tired, scared, hungry, petrified," she said.

"I know these women so well now, maybe even better than some of my best friends.

FAR HORIZON: Felicity Aston's team reached the South Pole after a 40-day trek

"You learn to depend on each other very quickly as everyone is so vulnerable."

The adventure started for Ms Aston two years ago when she invited applications for her expedition. The adventurer already had 10 years' experience under her belt, having completed treks including a 360-mile endurance race across the Canadian Arctic.

She also led the first British women's crossing of the Greenland ice sheet. About 800 women applied to take part and she made a shortlist of 16. This was cut down to the final six after a two-week training and selection camp in February 2009.

"I looked for people who got on well together," she said. "There was a huge element of trust in what we were going to do, so that was vital."

Ms Aston said there were small, precious moments that meant so much to the team during the expedition.

"It was actually these small things that were the real highs for me," she said. "We started skiing one day, there were halos around the sun and it was a bit windy and atmospheric. I remember looking back at the women and thinking, 'Wow'.

"These were novices who had never done anything like this before and yet they looked so professional – I was so proud."

But with the highs came the lows: "A few days into the trip there was a terrible blizzard and our tents got ripped in half. I thought the expedition was over. But with twine and other bits and bobs we managed to fix them and they lasted the whole time.

"There were other tough times. We only had one re-supply and were getting low on food. We had a fuel leak, one of the women had a damaged knee.

"We had to climb 9,000ft above sea level and had problems with breathing, which is very scary."

But Ms Aston said the reasons behind the trip were important and the team trekked on. "A lot of women around the world are not able to make their own choices. Hopefully this will change that and show people what women can do when they have the chance," she said.

Study attacks 'Boris Island'

BORIS Johnson's plans for an airport off the north Kent coast have been savaged by a new report.

A feasibility review conducted by Medway Council planning officers says such a development would be too far from London, too near a major liquid natural gas port and would harm the landscape.

This negative view of 'Boris Island' differs from that of the London Mayor, who believes a £40 billion airport could be built in the Thames Estuary within 10 years, fnanced by oil-rich Arabian Gulf countries.

Council leader Cllr Rodney Chambers said: "This report shows exactly what we already knew – that Mr Johnson's plans for an estuary airport are pie in the sky. His feasibility study has not taken into account the distance from London and whether passengers or airlines actually want this.

Arbitrary

It has ignored the fact there is a port importing huge quantities of liquid natural gas every day, and has made a very arbitrary study of the transport links needed."

The report also points out that Kent International Airport at Manston has one of the longest runways in Europe and could be connected to the high-speed rail service at a a reasonable cost. Medway's cabinet approved the study at a meeting on Tuesday and it will go to full council later this month.

Among the recommendations was for officers to contact Doug Oakervee – the author of Mr Johnson's feasibility study – to advise him that any justification for a new airport should only be considered once detailed studies of the transport infrastructure have taken place.

Cllr Chambers added: "I urge people to sign our petition and help us stop this airport."

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Cameraman focuses on good book for his Hollywood pitch

A MODERN-day retelling of The Prodigal Son could earn a former ITV cameraman a trip to Hollywood, ***writes Steve Knight***.

West Malling resident Peter Lloyd-Williams – who worked in the Meridian news region for 15 years – has reached the final stages of an internet competition that could see him receive £20,000 to fund his proposed film, The Running Father.

Should his three-minute trailer on The Pitch website be judged the best of the bunch, the 42-year-old will also earn the chance to meet X-Men producer Ralph Winter as well as a host of other industry professionals in Tinseltown.

Mr Lloyd-Williams, who runs the Tower Pictures video production firm, said: "It would be fantastic to win. It would give me some really good exposure to some key people in both the UK and Hollywood.

"The story is a take on The Prodigal Son and I was trying to do it in a Skins or Trainspotting style.

"It's about a girl who runs away with her boyfriend, and her dad is really worried about her so he sends her a cheque to help her out.

"She goes mad and drinks and snorts it all up her nose. When she runs out of money she feels she can't go home and so resorts to sleeping rough until she finally throws in the towel and goes back to her dad. We picked this because it shows to people that they don't need to be perfect before they are accepted at a church."

Mr Lloyd-Williams's pitch is one of 20 judged last month by both the public and a panel that included Wallace And Gromit creator Nick Park and Poirot star David Suchet.

The results will be announced tomorrow, with the overall winner named on Monday, January 18.

Organised by the Bible Society, entrants had to base their trailer on a verse, character or story from the Christian holy book.

Mr Lloyd-Williams said: "I think it's important because even though we live in a supposedly Christian country, many people haven't heard a lot of the Bible stories that a generation ago everyone had. There are some really healthy messages in there, even in an up-to-date format."

The Pitch director Luke Walton said it was not his aim to convert people to Christianity, but to show them what a fantastic book the Bible is.

He said: "The Shawshank Redemption and The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe all have Biblical themes running through them. There isn't a story been told The Bible hasn't already touched on."

Visit www.enterthepitch.com for more information.

SNAPSHOT: Peter Lloyd-Williams

Hike in council tax depends on £7m asylum bill

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

GOVERNMENT reluctance to help Kent County Council pay a £7 million-plus bill for asylum seekers could mean an extra hike in council tax bills.

Tory-run County Hall wants to increase April's levy by 1.86 per cent, but is currently budgeting for an additional 0.71 per cent hike for asylum costs – a total rise of 2.57 per cent.

That would mean an additional 50p a week for residents living in Band D properties, increasing an annual bill of £1,026 to £1,053.

KCC says the Government has yet to make it clear if the Home Office will cough up, but council leader Cllr Paul Carter revealed he was in direct discussions with the borders and immigration minister Phil Woolas over the matter.

Cllr Carter said: "Asylum is a national issue and we believe it is morally right that these costs are met nationally and not by Kent. It's a thorny subject and I'm hoping that between now and February 18 (the date the tax increase will be agreed) we will have a resolution because it's quite unfair for this cost or any asylum costs to fall on local government.

"It's a Home Office responsibility and they should meet the tab. If not, then we will have no option but to put a separate precept of 0.71 per cent on the council tax increase to meet those extra costs."

'Misleading'

Should the Government agree to pay back the cash, the proposed council tax rise of 1.86 per cent will be the lowest since the charge was first introduced back in 1993.

If not, it will be 0.13 per cent higher than the 2.44 per cent increase agreed last year.

However, KCC Labour leader Cllr Leslie Christie described Cllr Carter's asylum claims as "totally misleading".

He added: "The Government is paying for the asylum service provided the claims are backed by proper documentation. No government of whatever political persuasion will hand out taxpayers' money without full verification. If the Tory administration cannot provide what is needed then the fault lies more with them than with the Government."

UK Border Agency chief executive Lin Homer said she did not recognise the £7m figure quoted by Cllr Carter, adding the agency had been in discussions with KCC and other local authorities about covering the asylum costs.

She said: "We believe we have made Kent a very fair offer – including a substantial increase in the funding provided in previous years – and are awaiting a response."

The council tax increase was revealed as part of KCC's budget announcement on Tuesday. The authority's largest planned spending increase for the next financial year is an extra £12m on highways maintenance, with a further £6.5m for adult social care and £5.8m to increase entitlement to early education places. There will also be an additional £4m for children's social services to help cope with the increased number of referrals sparked by the Baby Peter tragedy.

Cllr Carter also revealed that KCC staff would be asked to accept a pay freeze to help the authority cope with an estimated £200m funding shortfall over the next three years.

Some 600-700 jobs will be cut at County Hall over that period.

Last year's offer of a one per cent pay increase caused some union members to take industrial action, but Cllr Carter was confident there would be no such repeat this year.

He said: "Unison have so far been very responsible and haven't called for a ballot so far. But a zero per cent increase is the sensible way forward and I hope the staff will understand that."

Kent Lib Dem leader Cllr Trudy Dean said her party would be examining the detail of the budget to ensure there was no more "continuing waste" like the controversial Kent TV and Healthwatch schemes.

She added: "Last spring KCC was criticised by the Audit Commission for being careless with £50m of taxpayers' money in Icelandic banks, and in July they awarded councillors an eight per cent increase in allowances while limiting staff to one per cent.

"In the last month residents have been infuriated by KCC's failure to clear roads and pavements of snow and ice.

"They will have to work very hard indeed to convince any taxpayer that there should be any increase in council tax next year at all."

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Jail for vicious knife attacker

A KNIFE-wielding thug has been jailed for four years after launching a savage attack on a young man.

Bill John Billingham, from Gillingham, lunged at the man after a heated argument turned into a fight in June last year.

During the scuffle in Church Path, Gillingham, the 26-year-old drew a knife and slashed at the unarmed 20-year-old victim, inflicting cuts to his head, arms and back.

Billingham fled the scene but was later arrested and charged.

He pleaded guilty to GBH with intent at Maidstone Crown Court.

Following sentencing Det Con Sean Wareham said: "Knife attacks such as this remain rare in Medway and hopefully this case will deter others from carrying and using knives."

Pictures: CHRIS GOMERSALL (RSPB IMAGES)

BEAUTY: The Sandwich tern (left), and lapwing (right) are both visitors to the county

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THE MOTORISTS' NO.1 CHOICE FOR CROSSING THE CHANNEL

Rare visitors a feather in county's cap

KENT has been dubbed a twitchers' paradise after finishing in the top five places in England for sightings of rare birds, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Fifteen rare species were recorded in Kent in 2008, putting the county in fourth place behind Yorkshire with 20, Norfolk with 17 and the Isles of Scilly with 16.

The figures were revealed in the latest report of the British Birds Rarities Committee.

The report, published in the journal British Birds, said 418 species had been seen in the UK during 2008 – the highest number ever recorded in this country.

And Kent can expect to see a growing number of scarce species, with the county likely to be at the forefront of northward colonisation over the next 100 years.

Graham Madge, from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), said this was due to its close proximity to continental Europe.

"It is a prime location and with climate change we'll be seeing a lot more species like woodpeckers, black kites and scops owls."

Mr Madge said Kent already featured prominently in records for rare birds.

"A tufted puffin was seen for the first time ever in Britain on the Swale in September," he said.

"In 2008 there was a green heron at West Hythe – they are from North America, so this was very unusual. An Audouin's gull, a very rare bird from the Mediterranean, was seen at Dungeness, as was a crested lark. And a fan-tailed warbler spent a long time at Pegwell Bay last autumn."

Mr Madge said the county had always been popular with birdwatchers.

"Kent has got great ornithological history. The RSPB reserve in Dungeness was set up in 1931 and there is an observatory at Sandwich Bay.

"It's a very prominent place for rare birds.

"It's the first part of the UK that many birds get to when arriving from the Continent and being closest to continental Europe makes it an enviable location.

"It also has warmer temperatures than other parts of the UK.

"For migratory birds it is a good place to stop and it is also the location where some birds nest for the first time."

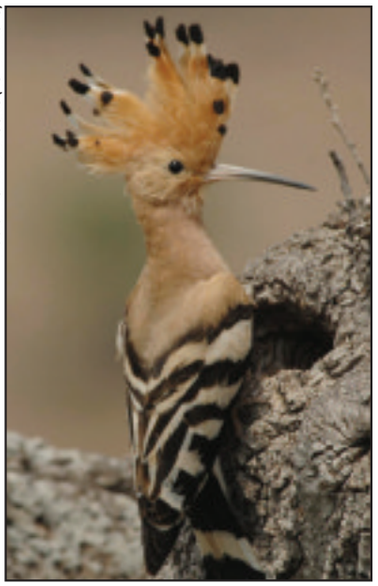
Paul Holt, head ranger at Samphire Hoe, said he and his team had come across some rare birds at the nature reserve between Folkestone and Dover.

"Last year we saw a hoopoe, which is unusual, and birdwatchers came here especially to see it," he said.

"We also see a lot of black redstarts, which are quite rare – there are only a few breeding pairs of them in Britain. Some birdwatchers come here specifically to see them."

Mr Holt said there were many places in Kent to see birds but that Samphire Hoe was a good place for beginners.

"There aren't too many species to look out for, but we do get some unusual ones."



Picture: RICHARD BROOKS (RSPB IMAGES)

RARE: A hoopoe was seen at Samphire Hoe

It's a crying shame

Sexual abuse charity blames revenge by rapist as statue is stolen following spate of vandalism

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

AN ICONIC statue representing the anguish of sexual violence has been stolen from a charity in the third attack on the organisation in just six months.

The symbolic figure, which belongs to Gravesend-based Family Matters, was ripped off its stand and stolen over the festive period.

It is the third time in sixth months the statue has been targeted – the first in July when it was attacked with a catapult and the second, a month later, when the head was kicked off.

Malcolm Gilbert, spokesman for the countywide charity which helps rape victims and adults who were sexually abused as children, believes the offender is linked to a victims it supports.

"I think we're being targeted by the same individual," he said.

"The first attack was in July when the person had a go at the statue with a catapult but missed and hit a window.

"At first we saw bullet-like holes and were shocked, but then we found the stones."

Exactly a month later to the day the head of the statue was ripped off.

"Now the entire statue has been stolen," he said.

The figurine – named It's a Crying Shame by people who have been helped by Family Matters – depicts the anguish of sexual violence, according to Mr Gilbert.

It was unveiled in 2007 to celebrate the successful partnership of the charity, the police and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Darent Valley Hospital.

Mr Gilbert said: "It's a symbolic statue. That's why I think it is somebody linked to a victim.

"We help bring about convictions for rape, sexual violence and abuse. We also help people change their behaviour so they can get away from their abuser.

"We're effectively stopping the abuser from getting to their victim."

But the charity has no idea who the culprit is as it saw more than 650 victims last year.

"We expect this to rise to 700 this year because talking about rape and sexual abuse is becoming more accepted.

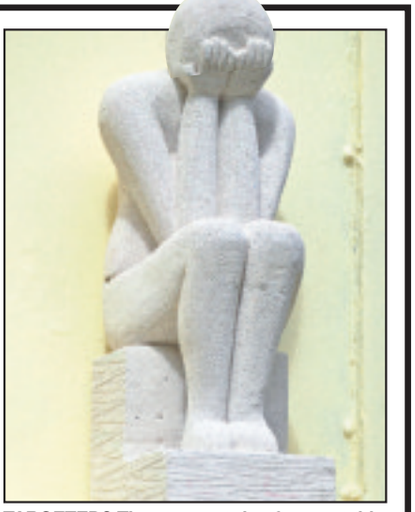
"People are also hearing about places like us where they felt they had nowhere to turn before.

"The NHS doesn't really help rape victims even though 50 per cent of women suffering mental health have been abused.

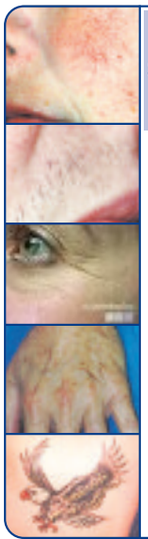
"They're helping get drowned people out of the river without looking up to see why they're there in the first place."

Family Matters was founded in 1990 by a group of people who suffered from sexual abuse.

• ***For more information visit www.familymattersuk.org or for the helpline call 01474 537392.***



TARGETED? The statue stolen from outside Family Matters' office in Gravesend (left)



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Electrifying our crime-fighters

County to have complete Taser coverage

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

THE whole of Kent is soon to be protected by Taser response teams providing round-the-clock cover.

Around 200 extra police officers will be trained to use the electro-shock weapons, bringing the total number of officers fully-qualified to use them to 300.

By June, all six policing areas – Medway, north, south, west, east and Mid-Kent – will be covered by Taser-trained, two-man emergency response vehicles.

Kent Police say the move follows the success of the stun guns in reducing violence towards officers. Police say Taser guns have also helped diffuse a large number of potentially dangerous situations since they were first rolled out in 2005.

When discharged, Tasers pump 50,000 volts into the victim and cause strong involuntary muscle contraction.

Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams said it has become clear they are highly effective in violent or dangerous situations.

"Often, just the presence of officers carrying or drawing a Taser is enough of a deterrent to a volatile or violent individual resisting arrest to make them surrender to police," he said.

"In fact, Tasers are rarely discharged. Since December 2008, to date, we have deployed them 142 times, but there have been just eight discharges."

When first introduced in 2005, the stun guns were solely used in firearm incidents. There were just 50 of them in use by the force at that time.

But earlier this year, the Home Office provided a share of £8 million to Kent Police as part of a national Taser expansion programme, and the number of the weapons in the county has now trebled to 150. Some non-firearm officers have also been trained to use them.

With the training of a further 196 officers, Taser-trained emergency response vehicle teams will be available to cover the six policing areas of Kent at all times.

ACC Adams added: "These officers at this level of cover will allow us to respond quickly and effectively to volatile or dangerous situations where control is needed quickly, but firearms officers are not required."

Strict guidelines on the use of stun guns have been set out in the Association of Chief Police Officers. It stipulates the weapon must only be deployed where there is reason to believe that an officer is facing violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public.

The Kent Police Authority gave its backing to the Taser programme and chief executive Mark Gilmartin said the public has also given its encouragement.

"Our consultation work has shown there is clearly public support for the use of Tasers," he said. "This piece of kit reduces the risk of an officer, member of the public or offender being injured. It's clear that the use of a red dot is sufficient to make most individuals compliant with police requests."

Kent Police has agreed to provide the police authority with an annual report detailing the use of Tasers.

Chief Constable Mike Fuller gave his support to the scheme from the start.

He was keen to increase the amount of Tasers in Kent after Home Secretary Jacqui Smith announced at the end of 2008 that 10,000 of the weapons would be made available to frontline officers.

PC Ian Pointon, chairman of the Kent Police Federation, said: "We made representations to the chief constable based on the experience of frontline officers... consequently Taser is to be deployed to emergency response vehicles crews in the six areas.

"This will enable officers to better protect themselves and the public.

"While other chief constables chose not to do this, Mr Fuller is to be congratulated for putting safety first."

THREAT: The sight of a Taser often appears to be enough to deter potential violence

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Thumbs up for theatre documentary makers

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE rebirth of a tiny theatre will feature in a new documentary its creators hope will be picked up by a mainstream broadcaster.

Margate's Tom Thumb Theatre – one of the smallest in the world with just 60 seats – was reopened early last month following four years of inactivity, during which time its existence was under threat from property developers.

But thanks to the efforts of a family of enthusiasts who bought the historic venue at auction, visitors to one of Kent's most famous coastal resorts can once again experience quality performances in a truly intimate setting.

Deal-based Aboosh Productions was so taken with the story of the former Victorian coach house that it approached the new owners about creating a documentary on its history.

Partner Abigail Draper said: "I'd seen TV coverage of the theatre being up for auction and then that it had been bought by Frankie Jordan, who lives in the same town as me.

"We'd just started our company and wanted a local project to work on, and we thought the Tom Thumb would be a fantastic place for us to feature in a documentary. It was just one of those coincidences in life.

"The new owners were up for it so we started filming right from the word go. We were there when they were given the keys to the place, right through all the refurbishment work and to the opening.

"The theatre is supposedly haunted too, so we were even there when a group of paranormal investigators came."

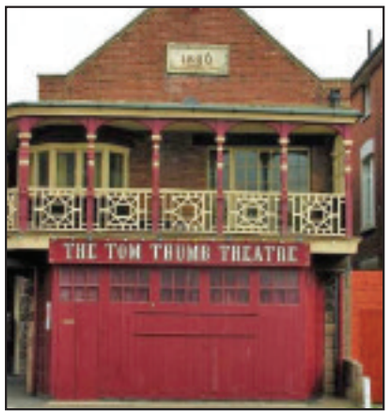
Despite the building itself having existed since the mid to late 19th century, its history as a theatre stretches back only to 1984 when it was renovated by its then-owners.

Having spent their entire budget on the purchase of the Tom Thumb, its current owners had to call in some favours and trawl the internet for affordable equipment to help make their dream a reality.

Miss Draper – who studied with business partner Josh White at Canterbury Christ Church University – was impressed with the family's dedication: "It's incredible what they've done. The theatre has a new lease on life, which is brilliant because there's nothing sadder than an empty theatre.

"It has such a great history and the vision the previous owners had is inspirational. To lose it would have been a blow to the community. The people of Margate should be proud to have it, and we encourage more people to go and see it."

• ***Aboosh Productionswould like to hear yout stories about the Tom Thumb Theatre, call them on 01304 690108.***



RE-BIRTH: The documentary follows the Tom Thumb Theatre from the day the new owners got the keys to opening night

Abigail Draper

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Dad's TV ad plea to fast drivers

LOST: Michael Bollom with son James, 16, who died in crash involving speeding car

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A GRIEVING father whose son was killed by a speeding driver has spoken of his heartache for a hard-hitting TV advert.

Michael Bollom, from Bearsted near Maidstone, hopes the candid account of his son James' death will bring home to viewers the harsh reality that speeding can kill.

He said: "This isn't just coming from an actor on TV – this is coming from a parent who lost his child."

In the advert, which will be shown on ITV Meridian, the 50-year-old recalls James's death in December, 2005.

The 16-year-old was killed a month short of his 17th birthday when the car he was travelling in lost control in the village of Wateringbury.

He died instantly after taking the full force of the crash.

The driver was prosecuted and jailed for dangerous driving.

The life-changing consequences of the crash took a further tragic twist when James's grief-stricken mother, Samantha, took her own life three months later.

Mr Bollom believes that by opening up about the tragedy on television, people will take notice and think twice about their speed while on the road.

"I want to get the message across to some of these young drivers that speeding can have tragic consequences," he said.

"If I can prevent just one death, prevent one family from going through the pain we suffered, then it will be worthwhile.

"By me doing it rather than an actor it makes it all the more real for people and therefore will have more of an impact."

Grief

Mr Bollom, who is director of a manufacturing company in Sittingbourne, was approached by Kent Police to talk about his grief as part of a campaign to clamp down on speeding.

The 30-second advert was filmed at Maidstone Studios by Southside Television and will be shown on ITV from January 15 to mid-February.

"It was daunting doing the advert and brought up a lot of sad memories," said Mr Bollom. But if helps prevent people speeding then it's been worth it."

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge paid tribute to Mr Bollom for taking part in the campaign.

"We are grateful to Michael for having the courage to do this and to help us get the message through that speed kills," he said.

MESSAGE: Michael Bollom hopes a account of his son's death will make drivers think

Director of Southside Television, Martin Smith, also praised him.

He said: "He was brave to do something like this as it obviously brought memories flooding back, but he is determined James should not have died in vain."

As part of his own personal plight, Mr Bollom has also written a book entitled Losing James: A Father Cries Too.

It gives a poignant account of his grief and how he dealt with the tragedy that tore his world apart. He hopes it will help other families cope with bereavement.

He said: "It's going very well – Waterstone's has taken it on in two of their branches in Maidstone. I've had emails from people saying it has helped them with their own grief."

Money from sales is donated to Holding On, Letting Go, which is part of Demelza House, a children's hospice based near Sittingbourne.

The charity aims to help families cope with bereavement.

Mr Bollom said: "We have already raised £2,000. Some of the people who have read my book have also given extra donations to the charity."

• ***To buy Losing James: A Father Cries Too, email mike@boundbiographies.com or go to Waterstone's in Maidstone.***

Hoax 999 callers under fire

NEARLY 100 hoax 999 calls were made during a five-month period last year, fire chiefs have revealed.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service's figures show firefighters from Medway were sent out unnecessarily – as the result of either a malicious call or by someone intentionally setting off a fire alarm – on 67 occasions between April-September, 2009.

A further 27 hoax calls were identified by control room operators – ensuring appliances were not sent out – during the same period.

In an effort to reduce hoax calls , KFRS has launched a hard-hitting poster campaign.

Those who falsely set off a fire alarm or make a hoax 999 call face up to a £5,000 fine and six months in prison.

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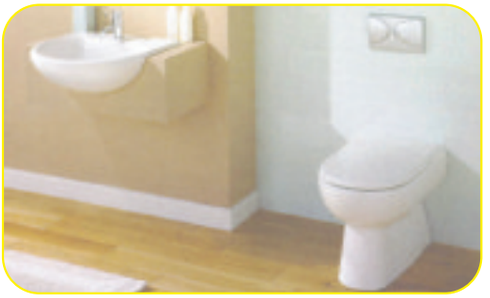

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Knight leads charge as Kent's great and good are honoured by Queen

A PROFESSOR, a police constable and an adviser to the Prime Minister were among 21 people in Kent to be commended in the Queen's New Year's Honours list, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Of those honoured, two received OBEs, one a CBE and another was given a knighthood. Others received MBEs for their services to their profession or community.

Across the UK, hundreds of local heroes and professionals were commended, including famous faces such as Status Quo guitarists Rick Parfitt and Francis Rossi, and Star Trek actor Patrick Stewart.

Among the Kent recipients was Paul Britton, 60, from Tonbridge, the former director general of the economic and domestic affairs secretariat in the Cabinet Office. He was made a Knight Bachelor.

His career in the civil service has spanned more than 30 years and included work on Scottish and Welsh devolution, helping senior government officials.

In the 10 years before his retirement in August, 2009, he worked in the Cabinet Office advising the Prime Minister and Cabinet members. Mr Britton said he was astonished when he found out he was to receive a knighthood.

"I'm very pleased. Perhaps not as pleased as my mother, who's been telling everybody she sees," he laughed. "I had no idea it was coming. It's good to feel people think you did your job well.

"I've spent my career in the civil service. I worked for the Department of Environment on housing before moving to the Cabinet Office where I worked on devolution. I was in the Cabinet Office from 1998 to 2009, so worked under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. It was a hard decision to take retirement, but I still do work for Number 10 three times a week."

Privileged

Another of the county's honoured was Prof Michael Wright, vice-chancellor of Canterbury Christ Church University.

He received a CBE for his contribution to higher education and the community.

Prof Wright, from Sandwich, said: "I am honoured to have been recognised, not only personally but because it signals how Christ Church has developed over the years.

"It is important to acknowledge the enormous support I continue to receive from colleagues and the governing body."

Prof Wright, who is a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, also said how pleased he was that the honour also referred to his contribution to the community.

"My wife Pamela and I feel privileged to live and work in our adopted county of Kent," he added.

Robin Castle, from Sheerness, was awarded an MBE for services to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

The 55-year-old has worked as coxswain mechanic for the Sheerness lifeboat for 28 years after working as coxswain on the Medway Port Authority patrol boat.

He said: "I was pleased and proud when I found out about the MBE. It was a big surprise though, I didn't expect it."

Others people recognised in the honours list included Ronald Bowers, from Dartford, for his work at the Ministry of Defence, PC Belinda Harding, from Beckenham, for services to the police, and Joan Warwick for charitable services to Darent Valley Hospital.

KENT'S NEW YEAR HONOURS

Knight Bachelor: Paul John James Britton, Tonbridge, former director-general and head of the economic and domestic affairs secretariat, Cabinet Office.

CBE: Prof Michael Wright, Sandwich, vice-chancellor of Canterbury Christ Church University, for services to higher education and the community.

OBE: Ronald John Bowers, Dartford, Grade B2, MoD. Paul Stafford Jackson, Gillingham, for services to the computer games industry.

MBE: Matilda Akhigbe, Chislehurst, communications officer, local compliance, London, HM Revenue and Customs; John Alfred Bigny, for services to Edenbridge and District Rail Travellers' Association; Elizabeth Ann Boswell, Sheerness, for services to the community; Yvonne Burdge, Brenchley, for services to the Trust for Chernobyl Children; Robin William Castle, Sheerness, for voluntary service to the RNLI; Susan Ellis, Ashford, former principal officer, south east area, National Offender Management Service, Ministry of Justice; Sheila Gow, Fordcombe, for services to regional journalism; Constable Belinda Harding, Beckenham, City of London Police, for services to the police; Gabriel Lancaster, Rochester, for services to the community; Alderman Peter James Morgan, Sittingbourne, for services to the community; Jennifer van Krieken Robson, Herne Bay, head of Minority Achievement Service, Kent County Council, for services to education; Sheila Ruth Rodmell, Elvington, for services to the community; Dr Andrew Oldrey Russell, Edenbridge, former chairman of League of Friends, Edenbridge and District Hospital, for services to healthcare; Lynn Savill, Gravesend, for services to people with epilepsy; Terence Brian Shead, Tonbridge, for services to the community; Joan Patricia Warwick, for charitable services to Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford; Christopher Mark Williams, Faversham, director of Heart 'n' Soul, for services to disability arts.

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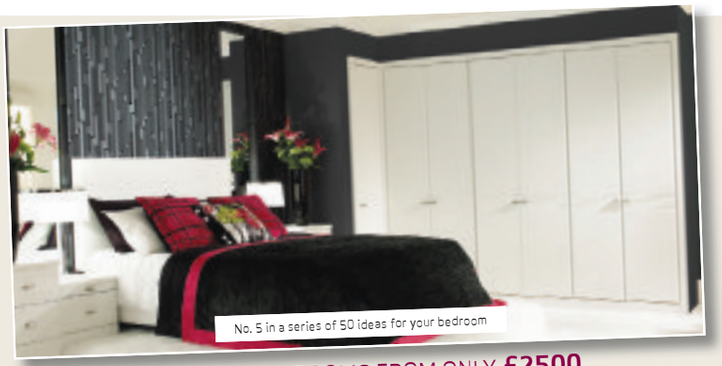
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THE Village Leisure Club in Maidstone is able to offer the facilities and memberships to suit all needs.

The Leisure Club is situated on the same site as the Village hotel, which boasts the Victory Pub and Verve Grill restaurant, and the only remaining Starbucks in Maidstone.

The Leisure Club has been open for five years and has established a reputation for being a friendly and sociable club where members like to meet for a workout, take part in one of the 70 classes held each week or have a relaxing swim and spa.

If you have never been to a gym before, and there are lots of people who haven't, then our staff will ensure you are comfortable coming to the gym and will ensure you meet your aims.

If you are have a particular goal in mind, for example running the London Marathon or getting ready for your wedding day, then you can have a personal trainer who will guarantee you are successful.

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Q) What is the name of the restaurant situated within The Village Hotel?

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For our full terms and conditions visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

If we have whetted your appetite to try the gym or you are just interested in having a look around the club, please give the team a call on 01622 656941 and we look forward to seeing you.

Sailors rescued

THE Margate lifeboat was involved in a dramatic New Year's Eve rescue after a yacht ran aground between Herne Bay and Margate.

Two sailors were taken to safety after the new 40ft vessel, Justice, ran aground on the Hook Sands near Reculver.

The two men were heading for St Katherine's Dock in London.

A Sea King helicopter from the Belgian air force base at Koksidje also flew over to assist, and plucked the two crewmen from their sinking vessel.

NHS health advice

HEALTH chiefs have installed 'E-Kiosk' information points at community hospitals in the NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Services area.

The kiosks are designed to provide instant and easy access to information for patients and staff about services.

The E-Kiosks are in Victoria Hospital, Deal; Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, Herne Bay; Sheppey Community Hospital; and Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital.

Six-week hunt for parked car

A CAR which an elderly woman parked and then could not find after visiting her husband in hospital has been located after being missing for six weeks.

Police issued an appeal for the public to help in the search for the missing Vauxhall Astra last week after being contacted by the pensioners' family.

And this paid off with two people spotting the silver car and contacting officers so it could be returned to the grateful owners on Tuesday.

The Astra is her husband's, who has not been named but is in his 80s and from Tonbridge.

His wife, also in her 80s, visited him at the Kent and Sussex Hospital in Tunbridge Wells on November 22 and parked after driving around side streets looking for a free space.

But when she left the hospital she could not remember where she had parked the car and was forced to call her family for help.

Members of her family had been searching for the car since then without success, so contacted the police to ask for help.

'Fashionable' designer dogs left out in the cold

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A RISE in demand for so-called 'designer breeds' has sparked fears even more dogs will be dumped in the weeks and months after Christmas.

The Dogs Trust says cross-breeds like the labradoodle face an increased risk of being abandoned due to their newfound popularity as short-term fashion accessories rather than lifetime companions.

Staff at the charity's rehoming centre in Canterbury are currently caring for three such animals and are concerned they may receive more in the weeks and months to come.

Manager Lizzie Reffell said: "We're seeing more designer breeds coming through the kennel system and it's quite unusual.

"These dogs are new on the scene and are quite expensive, which may be why they are becoming increasingly popular as fashion accessories.

"But still people do not seem able to cope with them or keep them long-term. Many don't seem to understand the dogs they buy will need to be looked after for the next 10 years.

IN CARE: (l-r) Puggle Ruby, boxador Benson and sprollie Charlie are in need of new homes

"We took in quite a few labradoodles last year but the problem has become more apparent now we have three cross-breeds at once. Fortunately because they are so popular they tend to be rehomed fairly quickly."

The three dogs currently being cared for by Dogs Trust Canterbury are Ruby the puggle (pug-beagle), Benson the boxador (boxer-labrador) and Charlie the sprollie (springer spaniel-collie).

Last year the BBC sparked a controversy when it dropped the annual Crufts dog show from its television schedule, citing concerns about the welfare of some of the pedigree canines on show.

However, Ms Reffell said there was no evidence to suggest cross-breeding caused any of the genetic defects uncovered by the broadcaster.

She added: "The dogs we've come across haven't had anything wrong with them but as time goes on we will find out more and more about the effects of cross-breeding."

• ***Anyone interested in providing a home for one of the Dogs Trust's animals can call 01227 792505.***

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Board game's historical impact

A SATIRICAL board game confiscated during last year's infamous Kingsnorth Climate Camp demonstrations has been deemed "historically important" by the BBC.

War on Terror – which encourages players to "spin the axis of evil" while wearing a terrorist-style balaclava – was listed among the likes of Monopoly and Cluedo as examples of games that have helped shape British history.

Its new-found reputation was moulded on the recent BBC Four series Games Britannia, in which author Benjamin Woolley sat down with inventors Andrew Sheerin and Andy Tompkins to see who could take over their version of the world first.

The duo came up with the game – which pokes fun at the real-life War on Terror – in 2003 as the UK was preparing to take on Iraq over the so-called 'weapons of mass destruction' that were never found.

He said: "We thought it was quite absurd that despite all the marches and the vast amount of public hostility towards the war, it still went ahead.

"We were left feeling a bit bemused and frustrated by it all, but at the same time we felt some of the issues surrounding it were the perfect ingredients for a board game – friends turning into enemies and enemies turning into friends, depending on what gives them a tactical advantage.

"It felt quite natural to be included on a show detailing the history of British board games, but when it actually aired we were pretty humbled at being put in the same league as Monopoly and Cluedo."

GAME FOR A LAUGH: War on Terror inventors (l-r) Andrew Sheerin and Andy Tompkins with their board game

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Rifleman's body flown back home

HUNDREDS of mourners have lined the streets of Wootton Bassett to pay their respects to a Kent soldier killed in Afghanistan.

The body of Rifleman Aidan Howell, from Sidcup, was flown back in the UK on Tuesday and a cortege took place through the Wiltshire town, which is famous for honouring dead British troops.

The 19-year-old, from the 3rd Battalion, The Rifles, was killed in an explosion in the Kajaki area of Helmand Province on Monday, December 28.

His devastated family and friends paid tribute to the avid Leeds United fan who they nicknamed their 'Sunshine Boy'.

In a statement his family said: "We cannot begin to express the utter devastation we feel at the loss of our beautiful son.

"He may be recognised as a hero now, but to his family and everyone who was lucky enough to know him, he was already a hero."

The body of Rifleman Howell was flown into Wootton Bassett with another dead soldier, 23-year-old Sapper David Watson.

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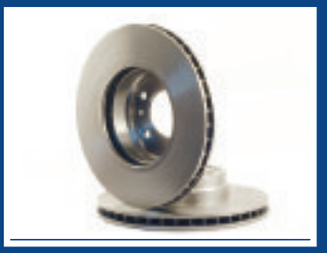

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Top produce, all-year round

From farming events, food celebrations and drink festivals, RACHEL MCATHY finds out what this year's local produce industry holds in store for us

JANUARY

The year is just beginning and with winter firmly set it, hearty vegetables are in demand, such as Brussels sprouts, parsnips and potatoes.

Also peaking in the first month of the year is kale and winter cabbage, Jerusalem artichoke and swede. Those with a sweet tooth can enjoy some beautiful winter fruits at this time of year, such as blood oranges and pears.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Farmhouse Breakfast week, Sunday, January 24 to Saturday, January 30.

FEBRUARY

Despite being the shortest month of the year, February still has plenty to offer food lovers in Kent. From field to sea, the county starts to come alive with a variety of changing flavours, from fresh fish such as halibut to crunchy chicory.

Many winter vegetables are still in season, such as cabbage, leeks and purple sprouting broccoli. But Kent's waters also begin to flourish, with indulgent oysters, mussels and scallops caught from local shores.

Back on land, there is no shortage of meats coming into season, from common beef and chicken, to the more unusual rabbit or guinea fowl.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Bramley Apple Week, Sunday, February 7 to Sunday, February 14. Shrove Tuesday, February 16.

MARCH

The winter chills are starting to fade and the season of new life is upon us, offering the freshest produce from across the county. In Kent's fields grow crisp spring onions, for the ultimate spring salad.

The county's fisherman also enjoy this time of year, as they bring back top-quality crab and prawns, the perfect ingredients for a mouth-watering seafood cocktail.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Lambing weekend at Hadlow College, Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 March.

APRIL

As temperatures start to rise, Kent's local food industry really starts hotting up. New vegetables enter the scene, with a focus on fresh salad leaves, from rocket and spinach to watercress.

Beautifully tender spring lamb is another favourite at this time of year, as well as top local herbs, such as basil and parsley. Fields of wild garlic and mushrooms also provide beautiful aromas to Kent dishes.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Easter Beer Festival in Margate, Friday 2 and Saturday 3 April

MAY

This is a wonderful month for Kentish produce, showcasing some highlights of the county's food calendar, such as delicious asparagus, which only stays in season for around eight weeks.

FESTIVAL OF FOOD: The wide range of top-quality local produce will provide something for everyone to savour throughout the year

Other delights at this time of year include courgettes and samphire, which happens to act as the perfect accompaniment to seafood, with sea trout and plaice particularly thriving in this month. Succulent duck is another seasonal treat, as well as apricots and cherries, the main fruits to flourish in May.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Kent County Fair at the Hop Farm, Saturday, May 1. British Sandwich Week, Sunday, May 16 to Sunday, May 23.

JUNE

Summer is starting to arrive and the good weather promises some of the most beautiful fruits from across the county, with strawberries, gooseberries, cherries, tayberries and raspberries the main contenders for the ultimate summer fruit salad.

Adding to the vibrant colours of summer foods are the beautiful green of the pea and broad bean, as well as the velvety purple of the aubergine.

JULY

With summer in full swing, there is plenty of choice when it comes to local produce. Fruits are continuing to blossom, with blackberries and blueberries also at their best. Kent's fields are in their element, offering a range of vegetables from artichoke and beetroot to chillies and sweetcorn.

Traditional meats remain strong at this time of year, with specialties such as venison and game meats also entering season.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Kent Show in Detling, Friday, July 16 to Sunday July 18. Kent Beer Festival, Thursday, July 22 to Saturday, July 24. Celebration of the centenary of the Oxo cube in Hawkhurst, Saturday, July 24 to Sunday, July 25. Whitstable Oyster Festival, Saturday, July 24 to Friday, July 30.

AUGUST

Bask in the warmth of summer and enjoy some of Kent's most famous foods, such as Dover sole, the tastiest of all soles, which can be bought freshly caught at many of the county's coastal towns.

Also in season at summertime is sorrel, a sour-tasting herb which is perfect with fish, particularly with white fish such as Dover and lemon sole.

Another August favourite is the tomato, mainly enjoyed at this time of year fresh from the vine in a sandwich, salad or salsa. Although they are available throughout the year, local varieties of the tomato ripen in the summer months, when it is transformed into a sweet and tangy delight.

SEPTEMBER

As we move from summer to autumn, there are plenty of newcomers to the food market. One of Kent's most famous products, the apple, is just one new arrival in the autumn months, along with pears, plums and peppers.

Autumn meats move from land to air, with partridge, pheasant and wood pigeon the ultimate delicacies.

Delicious accompaniments include butternut squash, a tasty warming treat for the colder nights just around the corner. Festive fruits are also starting to come into season, such as clementines which promise to brighten up the fruit bowl.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Maidstone's Original Beer and Hops festival at Kent Life, Saturday September 11 and Sunday September 12. Eurofair and Kent Food and Drink festival, Friday September 24 to Sunday September 26. Broadstairs Food Festival, Monday September 27 to Sunday October 3.

OCTOBER

The Kent countryside provides a mass of foods to keep you warm as the air gets colder, from mushrooms and leeks, to potatoes and game meat, which can all go into warming soups, stews and casseroles.

With Halloween on the horizon, this is the perfect time of year to enjoy pumpkins as they take centre stage. The flesh can be blended into soups, chopped into pasta dishes, or pureed into sweet pumpkin pie.

Another famous Kentish product, the cobnut, as well as chestnuts and hazelnuts, are in season during the autumn months and make perfect festive nibbles.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: National Apple Day, Thursday, October 21. National Baking Week, Monday, October 18 to Sunday, October 24.

NOVEMBER

You either love them or hate them, but November signals the return of the Christmas staple veg, the Brussels sprout. Transform these unpopular buds into a festive favourite by adding with chestnuts and bacon.

Other vegetables thriving as the days get shorter include celeriac, cauliflower and beetroot, which add fantastic flavours to a wholesome Kentish roast dinner.

In preparation for the biggest feast of the year on Christmas day, production of turkeys and geese will also be in full swing at select farms across the region.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Festive Fair at Leeds Castle, Saturday November 20 and Sunday November 21

DECEMBER

The days are short, the nights are long and the weather is cold, but while local food production does drop, there is still plenty of activity across the county.

Even out at sea, luxurious fish varieties such as sea bass are at their best in the winter months. Other foods also thrive in colder conditions, such as Brussels sprouts, whose flavour is intensified by a frost.

Some fruits can also deal with a brisker climate, from apple varieties such as Bramley and Braebourne and Conference pears still beautifully fresh in the winter.

Demand for winter warmers, such as parsnips, potatoes and leeks is always high at the end of the year reflected in production levels, with winter classics, the red cabbage and apple, often paired together for a deliciously sweet festive side dish.

foodforkent.co.uk We are committed to adding more local suppliers to our online service and any local business or producer that wishes to join our campaign should contact us at foodforkent.co.uk or email us at feedback@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

We need to be better prepared

DANGEROUS roads, train rides from hell and lengthy traffic jams all add up to another lousy week for the people of Kent.

It's safe to say the icy weather has once again played havoc with all our lives, but it has been pleasing to see just how many people have been determined to get on with things.

While more than 100 schools threw in the towel at the first sign of snow, many businesses remained open as staff pulled together and did their best to make it into work.

But regardless of whether or not they succeeded, it's safe to say Kent's road and rail network was still in a pretty shoddy state.

To its credit Kent County Council's team of gritters worked tirelessly to keep the main routes safe, but the fact there have been so many closures and hold-ups suggests more needs to be done in the future.

And the less said about 12-hour train rides between London and Ashford the better.

If prolonged bouts of icy weather are going to become more frequent in the years to come, perhaps the powers that be should reconsider how much money is spent on coping.

It's snow problem

EXPLORER Felicity Aston must be wondering what all the fuss is about, having just led seven women to the South Pole.

The 31-year-old from Birchington said her team wept as they reached the end of their trek, proving it is possible to survive in the snow without the aid of a four-wheel drive.

OPINION: Green review of the Noughties

Hazel Dawe of Kent Green Party assesses what the last decade meant for the environmental movement across the county

THE most important green issue of the Noughties has been climate change.

At the start of the decade, few were engaging with this issue – now most people realise its importance. Don't believe the deniers. Climate change is real and urgent and we can and must do something about it.

Only one per cent of scientists are climate change sceptics and their arguments have been debunked as bad science.

It became an issue in Kent with the Climate Camp protest at Kingsnorth against plans for another coal-fired power station.

That has now been delayed and we can only hope the economic and political situation will mean it will never be built.

We don't need coal-fired power stations – renewable energy can provide all our needs.

This country has the best wind energy resources in Europe, but we only produced 5.6 per cent of our energy through renewables in 2008. We need much more wind, we need solar power and we need tidal and wave power.

The UN Climate Conference at Copenhagen was a grave disappointment. Governments refused to show the leadership needed to tackle climate change.

Now it's up to each and every one of us to do what we can. Wind farms are a major source of renewable energy and have a key role to play in combating climate change. The first wind farm in Kent was Kentish Flats, off Whitstable.

In 2009, Little Cheyne Court on Romney Marsh opened. Thanet's offshore wind farm will be the largest in the world when it starts operating this year.

Even bigger will be the London Array, which will generate enough electricity for 750,000 homes – enough for all the households in Kent and East Sussex.

Kent Green Party supported all of these projects. We also helped ensure power lines at Little Cheyne Court were put underground, preserving the landscape. Both Thanet projects are bringing much-needed jobs as well as making electricity generation more environmentally friendly.

Kent Green Party would like to see better insulation and more electricity generation in homes, schools and hospitals. I have solar water heating on my roof, helping the environment and reducing my energy bills. I would like solar electricity panels as well. Unfortunately, prices are high and that means pay-back times are long. However, as energy prices rise, this is changing.

Another Green success of the Noughties is farmers' markets. The first in Kent started in 2000 at Wye, near Ashford.

There are now 36 markets in Kent. Unfortunately, only four are Farmers' Retail and Markets Association (Farma) certified: Wye, Rochester, West Malling and Tunbridge Wells.

Farma independently assesses and certifies farmers' markets to make sure they comply with agreed standards. These state that farmers, growers or producers from a defined local area must be present in person to sell their own produce.

All products should have been grown, reared, caught, brewed, pickled, baked, smoked or processed by the stallholder.

The rapid expansion is still to be welcomed and shows how Kent people appreciate fresh, local produce. Using farmers' markets supports your community and local economy, and helps reduce food miles. If your farmers' market is not Farma certified, ask them to apply.

Another way to get fresh local produce and reduce food miles is to grow your own, and people are increasing doing so. In August, Kent Green Party called on councils in the county to allocate more land, especially on the fringes of towns, for allotments.

There is increased demand for allotments in many areas and long waiting lists. This demand is not being met by councils, despite a legal duty to do so.

For your New Year's resolution, do something green. Get an allotment or dig a vegetable bed in your garden; join your transition town group or start one; ask the council about grants for solar water or home insulation; use your farmers' market.

Above all, enjoy locally grown produce, enjoy growing your own veg and enjoy your nicely insulated and warm home. Green living can be good living.

• ***Dr Hazel Dawe is chair of Kent Green Party.***

Hollow ring to Adonis

A letter to transport minister Lord Adonis:

I have read with astonishment your paeon of praise for the attractions of the HS1 rail service between Kent and St Pancras.

While I concede this new service may be attractive to travellers from Ashford who work in the vicinity of St Pancras/Kings Cross, any "progress" has been achieved at a not inconsiderable cost to my constituents who commute to London – in both time and cash.

Those I represent, already paying above-average fare increases (and no, they have not benefited from the effects of low inflation on fares), now find the timetable so disrupted and services to Victoria and Cannon Street so slow that they are resorting to motorcycles, cars and coaches.

I have before me a clutch of emails I shall be discussing with Southeastern Trains MD Charles Horton next week. If you would like to join us, please let me know.

Unless and until the signalling is improved on the Kent coast line; the Cannon Street and Victoria timetable is restored; and serious investment is made in upgrading the line between Ashford and a new Thanet parkway station, claims that the East Kent to London service has improved will continue to ring very hollow indeed.

Southeastern's response to the recent bad weather has been lamentable. Trains are slow, dirty, late and expensive. It is time those responsible woke up to the fact that a journey is a door-to-door event, not a time and distance between two stations. The need to take the Underground from St Pancras to their destination has meant, for many using HS1, an increase in the daily cost of £13.50 for a journey that is longer and more disruptive.

I would be grateful if you would take into account these thoughts and the views of those actually using the service when making future public statements on the subject.

Roger Gale MP, North Thanet

Tory salt in our icy wounds

Cabinet member for highways Cllr Nick Chard admitted before Christmas that Kent County Council "was not aware" it was responsible for clearing the pavements of snow and ice (BBC Radio Kent, December 23).

Until three years ago, this service was delivered through borough-based highways management units, and borough council street cleansing staff were used to spread salt and grit provided by Kent Highways.

A reorganisation of highways services into central super-depots scrapped this sensible arrangement, but KCC put nothing in its place. During this snow crisis, borough councils which asked for adequate salt and grit have been denied supplies by KCC.

This is an astonishing demonstration of incompetence which has left people injured or marooned in their homes.

Cllr Chard has apologised and said he will urgently review the arrangements for road and pavement clearance.

This gives the public the opportunity to say which pavements should be salted, and to ask for new routes to be added to the road salting map, which can be viewed on the KCC website.

In my own division, apart from A20 and A228, only one other route through each village is salted. Only the main High Street route is on the map for West Malling; New Road and Wateringbury Road in East Malling; and Leybourne Way/New Hythe Lane in Larkfield.

This is ludicrous and I urge residents to email Cllr Chard (nick.chard@kent.gov.uk) or write to him at County Hall with their suggestions for additional routes.

Cllr Trudy Dean, Liberal Democrat, leader of the opposition, KCC

Pavement pantomime

Those who tried to get around the town centre of Deal in the days before Christmas will know how difficult it was. The only way to make progress without risking a fall was to walk in the road and risk being knocked over.

The lack of pavement gritting stems from a decision by the Conservatives at Kent County Council to centralise the highways service at depots in Ashford and Wrotham at a cost of £17.5 million. The Wrotham site had to be abandoned at additional cost to taxpayers.

The Ashford site is up and running, but the result has been the lack of local knowledge and accountability which led to the pre-Christmas panto on the pavements of Deal.

This kind of problem was predicted repeatedly by KCC's scrutiny committee, but the Conservatives pressed on with their 'one-size-fits-all' policy.

The Christmas shoppers and traders of Deal suffered the consequences.

Cllr Mike Eddy, Labour district member for Mill Hill

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Lifeblood of the NHS

In your newspaper last weekend there was a story about blood donors and blood stocks in Kent.

While we appreciate promotion of this kind can help more people come forward to donate blood, there were one or two errors we would like to correct.

The story stated we need 700,000 donations every day across the UK to ensure there is enough to treat patients. This isn't the case.

The NHS needs 7,000 units of blood daily to supply hospitals across England and North Wales. NHS Blood and Transplant looks after England and North Wales, not the whole of the UK.

Claire Dolling, NHS Blood and Transplant

They can stop digging

I find it incomprehensible that Eurostar and Eurotunnel have the nerve to criticise Kent Police for the recent chaos in the Channel Tunnel. It wasn't Kent Police who caused five trains to break down.

Nor was it Kent Police who failed to pull the stranded engines out of the tunnel into a safe siding as soon as they broke down.

And it wasn't Kent Police who failed to put in place sufficient protocols to ensure passengers were not left to swelter in the tunnel and were removed safely from it within minutes of the trains coming to a stop.

The blame lies squarely with the two rail operators, no matter how much they protest to the contrary.

Eurostar and Eurotunnel owe Kent Police an apology for their undue criticism and more so a huge financial contribution to police coffers for all the hard work the force's officers put in over Christmas ensuring passenger safety.

Donald Worsley, Labour parliamentary candidate for Folkestone and Hythe

Letters continued on page 28

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BIRTHS

ANDREWS
Graham and Jade Andrews celebrate the birth of their son Thomas Jake Andrews on 26th December 2009.

CHRISTOS-BROOKS
Jacqueline and Jonathan Christos-Brooks celebrate the birth of their daughter Flo Maureen Christos-Brooks on 16th December 2009.

CRENTSIL
Lord and Adelaide are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Mischa on 22nd December 2009 at Darent Valley Hospital. Baby sister to Lemuel and Valentino

DANN
Ella Louise Dann born on 24th December 2009, weighing 6lbs 9oz. Daughter to Louise and Lewis in Maidstone.

FOREMAN / JUDD
Matilda Jane born on 4th December 2009 weighing 8lbs 6oz. Daughter to Kerry and Matthew.

FULLER
Philip Steven Ray Fuller born on 25th December 2009, weighing 7lb 6oz. Son to Wendy-Louise and Steven Fuller of Ashford.

GRANT
Isabelle Charlotte born on 13th December 2009 weighing 9lb 3oz. Sister to Ellenor, Holly and Lucy

GETHINS
Sarah and Steve Gethins celebrate the birth of their son Hagen Jon Gethins on 24th December 2009.

LANDER
Mia Jessica born on 17th December 2009, weighing 8lbs 2oz. Daughter to Paul and Karen Lander in Maidstone.

MANGA
Nicola and David Manga are pleased to announce the birth of Noah. Born 3rd December 2009 weighing 8lbs 14ozs. Brother to Tejan and Solomon in Ramsgate.

MATHER
Craig and Gemma Mather celebrate the birth of their son Alfie on 22/12/2009 weighing 7lbs 6ozs in Margate Hospial. Little brother for Noah.

MARTIN
Blake Michael Martin born on 13th December 2009, weighing 8lbs 2oz. Son to proud parents Lucy and Tim in Snodland.

MCNEIL-LAWSON
Logan McNeil-Lawson born on 22nd December 2009 at 3.23pm weighing 6lbs 14oz. Son to Ian and Gillian McNeil-Lawson in Maidstone.

MORRISSEY
Sam David William Morrissey born on the 20th December 2009, weighing 8lbs 9ozs. Beautiful son to Sam and Kelly.

OSBORN
Emily Charlotte Florence born on the 17th December 2009, weighing 8lb 6oz. Daughter to Pam and John and sister to Oliver.

OSBORNE
Zether and Paul celebrate the birth of their son Finley James Osborne on 26th December 2009.

ROSE
Darren and Katie Rose celebrate the birth of their daughter Isabelle Pixie Rose on 2nd December 2009. A lovely sister for Joshua.

SPEARPOINT
Edgar George born on the 20th December 2009 to Quin and Kat, the proud parents, and brother to Penelope.

TAYLOR
Ann and Chris Taylor celebrate the birth of their son Riley Taylor on 15th December 2009.

VAN HESTEREN
Freddie Van Hesteren born on 25th November 2009 at 06.53 am weighing 6lb 8oz.. Son to Stuart Van Hesteren and Katie Hardy.

WILLCOX
James, born on 30th November 2009, weighing 7lbs 14oz. Son to David and Helen Willcox of Ashford Kent. Brother to Faye.

DEATHS

AMER
Gwendoline Kathleen Emily Amer (nee Gibbs)
16/07/1923 to 22/12/2009.
Widow of Alan and formerly of Gravesend and Allington, died peacefully in Sittingbourne. A much loved and loving mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Aunt and Friend. Funeral Service to take place at Union Street Methodist Church, Maidstone at 11.00 am on Friday 15th January 2010. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to Alzheimers Society c/o Sears Funeral Service, 2 Thornhill Place, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2SF. Tel: 01622 754663. Our thanks to the staff of Elvy Court Nursing home, Sittingbourne for all the care they gave over the past two and a half years.

BIRCH
Trevor Birch sadly taken from his Family on New Years Eve 2009. Service at Thanet Crematorium on Wednesday 13th January at 4pm. Enquiries to Gore and Sons of Birchington. All friends welcome.

BIRCH
Trevor Birch sadly taken from his Family on New Years Eve 2009. Service at Thanet Crematorium on Wednesday 13th January at 4pm. Enquiries to Gore and Sons of Birchington. All friends welcome.

BRYAN
Alice Emma Bryan sadly passed away on the 29th December 2009. Funeral on the 18th January 2010 at 1:15pm at Hawkinge Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations to the Pilgrims Hospice c/o Chittendens Funeral Directors Folkestone.

BUTLER
Michael John Butler passed away on 25th December 2009, aged 71. Dearly loved Husband to Celia, Father to Sean and Michelle, Grandfather to Annabel, Evelyn, and Edgar. Funeral Service at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium at 2pm on Wednesday 13th January.

DYSON
Lilian Florence DYSON aged 93 years. Sadly taken from us suddenly on the 23rd December 2009. Will be missed by all who loved her and cared for her. Reunuited with her husband Dick. Rest in Peace. Love Julie Bill and Grandaughter Stacey x

HORSLEY
Freda May Horsley passed away peacefully on the 2nd January 2010. Sadly missed by family and friends. Enquires to Medway Funeral Directors

JOY
Albert (Bert) Joy of Folkestone formerly of London, passed away peacefully after a long illness on the 30th December 2009, aged 64years. Loving husband , father and friend.

LAWRENCE
Monica Lawrence died peacefully on the 22nd December 2009. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium on 12th January 2010 at 12.30pm.

MAYO
Michael John Mayo of Ramsgate passed away peacefully after a long illness on 23rd December 2009, aged 73.

RAVEN
Muriel Ada Raven on 21st December 2009, aged 80 years. Dearly loved Mother of Geoffrey, David and Andrew. Grandmother of Hannah, Matthew and Charlotte. Funeral Service at Vinters Park Crematorium on Friday the 15th January 2010. Flowers to Paul J Rowland 01622 757177.

ROGERS
Jean Rogers of Dartford passed away on 27th December 2009. Enquiries to Co-Operative Funeralcare Darftord, funeral service at Eltham Crematorium on Monday 25th January at 11am.

STARBUCK
Brian Morgan Starbuck of Gravesend passed away peacefully on 20th December 2009 aged 72 years. Funeral to be held on 7th January at Medway Crematorium. Enquiries to Solomons Funeral Services Gravesend. No flowers please but donations may be made to Elleanor Lions Hospice Northfleet.

TAYLOR
George Taylor of Folkestone passed away peacefully after a long illness on the 22nd December 2009. Enquiries to Chittendens of Folkestone.

TAPPENDON
Bill Tappendon of Dover, passed away on the 3rd January 2010. Enquiries to Farriers of Dover.

TAYLOR
Dot Taylor (Aunty) of West Hougham Dover, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday 3rd January 2010. Enquiries to Farriers of Dover. Much loved and will be missed by all.

USHER
Bob Usher former Councillor and Sub-Post Master of Penenden Heath passed away on 22nd December 2009. Enquiries to Freemans Funeral Directors Union Street Maidstone.

Letters continued from page 27

New Year's new hope

After a disastrous 2009, the New Year offers new hope in many respects. And while the UN climate talks in Copenhagen ended with a "historic cop out", as Oxfam describes it, there is reason to believe that 2010 will be different.

The politicians in Denmark may have huffed, puffed, squabbled and gesticulated, but tens of thousands of ordinary people gathered there with a common purpose: solving the climate crisis.

The so-called Copenhagen Accord stated the desire to "keep warming below two degrees" but put in place no commitment and no method by which to do so.

As one observer commented: "If the climate were a bank, it would have been saved, not abandoned to the brutality of the market."

If temperatures increase two degrees it will cause sea levels to rise by more than two metres, swamping the Norfolk Broads, flooding the Thames Estuary and inundating our south-east coastline.

London, Portsmouth and much of Kent will need vast new flood defences – but at least we have the resources to protect ourselves.

In developing countries, 300,000 people are dying every year from increased drought, severe flooding, water and food shortages and tropical storms.

Campaigners gathered in Copenhagen knew time was running out.

While the UN summit ended in failure, our own people's summit was a success. In solidarity, in unity at fighting a common cause, we built huge momentum for the future. We protested, networked, discussed real solutions and produced better outcomes than any politician could manage.

We realised 2009 was not the end but just the beginning. It saw the world's biggest-ever demonstration against climate change. It saw 1.5 million people gather at Oxfam's climate hearings over the world, to testify against the global warming impacts they are suffering right now.

The summit in Copenhagen, far from weakening our resolve, made us stronger. So we go forward into 2010 knowing that, while there is much work still to do in order to get the fair and safe global deal we all need, and while a fresh approach and new direction is called for, we are better placed and better equipped to succeed than ever before.

James Cracknell, Oxfam, Kent

Lack of real leadership

"Brokenhagen" is how Friends of the Earth has described last month's failed climate change summit. Copenhagen was the time and place for a strong climate change treaty. Instead, the world got a worthless vote to "note" a political agreement.

This year, the world's richest countries, especially the USA and China, need to show real leadership and turn this weak agreement into a legally binding treaty.

At Copenhagen, rich countries showed low ambition and lower tactics. Developing countries put forward bold and fair proposals which have been sidelined by rich nations.

The agreement will need to be radically strengthened to set the world on a path to avoiding runaway climate change. At this year's climate summits in Germany and Mexico short-term interests must be set aside, real leadership shown and a strong, legally binding treaty agreed.

Stuart Cox, coordinator,
East Kent Friends of the Earth (FoE)

An icy blast at Chard

An email going astray is indeed a lame excuse from Kent County Council for the gritting chaos across west Kent.

Readers will recall that another email was blamed when KCC lost millions in Icelandic banks, which could have helped pay for the salting of our icy roads and pavements. At least £3 million of this will not be returned.

Perhaps Cllr Nick Chard needs to sort out this continuing IT problem at KCC before more money melts into thin air.

Dr Alan Bullion, Liberal Democrat
parliamentary candidate for Sevenoaks

Cameron talks rubbish

I would think by now most people know just how useless the Labour Party is, given the state of our country.

So it beggars belief that David Cameron should start spouting rubbish just to prove the Conservatives are equally worthless.

The Tories have surely made another bad choice for their leader. There seems to be no party able to get us out of the hole Labour has dug, unless the UK Independence Party starts showing itself even a modicum better than the other rabble.

R E Tucker, Sheerness

Yet more Labour spin

Oh dear, Bromley Labour group leader Cllr John Getgood is at it again. He can always see the straws in others people's eyes, but never the rafters in his and his party's eyes.

He complains that neither the Tories nor Lib Dems wish to support yet another Labour idea to waste more taxpayers' money, supposedly to increase democracy. His party's record on democracy is abysmal. They ignored demonstrations by millions against the invasion of Iraq, going ahead on a tissue of lies, causing the death of tens of thousands of innocent people and making us an even bigger terror target.

This Government has never listened and wastes millions on spin, trying to make us believe white is black. What is the point of adding yet another layer?

Phil Granger West Malling

It's time for a change

There will be an election this year and Labour and the Conservatives have already started to campaign for your votes.

The UK Independence Party does not have the resources to run a lengthy campaign, but what we do have is the passion to see the UK resume its place on the world stage, not as part of an EU superstate but in her own right, and as head of the largest trading block in the world – the Commonwealth.

The other parties will tell you what they will do and how they will spend your money, but not how much is spent by the EU, or how many laws are made by Brussels which should be decided by our Parliament.

Everything that is made, bought, sold or used in the UK is now subject to EU laws and regulations – and everything promised by the old parties is also subject to EU approval.

Ukip will stand against this, and while a few MPs will not be able to force our withdrawal from the EU, they can and will refuse to accept that "Brussels knows best" and will fight for British MPs to make British laws.

MPs have lost the trust of the people and the time has come to look at electing ordinary people, who have run businesses and worked for a living.

The independence in the party name applies not only to the country, but also local councils and individuals. Government should intrude into people's lives as little as possible. All I ask of you is to look hard at who you will be voting for, and consider an alternative to the Lib Dem, Labour and Conservative parties.

Bob Oakley, Ukip parliamentary candidate,
Gillingham and Rainham

Why hunting is history

Recent media reports of the level of support for traditional hunting have painted a somewhat confusing picture.

On one hand we are being told that hunting is more popular than ever, while on the other we are being told the Hunting Act must be repealed.

If the Hunting Act 2004, which took the cruelty out of hunting by making it a crime to set dogs onto wild mammals for sport, has resulted in increased popularity then why repeal the legislation?

The truth is that, sadly, some in the hunting fraternity do not accept the change to cruelty-free hunting and want to turn the clock back to the cruelty and barbarism of the past by repealing the Act.

The European Court of Human Rights recently rejected a claim backed by the Countryside Alliance that the ban infringed an individual's human rights.

This ruling agreed with the UK High Court finding, "that hunting with dogs was cruel and the bans [In England, Wales and Scotland] were justified as they aimed at preventing disorder, protecting health and morals, and the rights and freedoms of others".

With more than 130 now having been convicted for breaches of the Hunting Act, surely it is high time the minority who enjoy chasing and killing wild animals for sport accepted that repealing a law which would bring back their cruel sport is simply not an option.

The only option is to keep cruelty history.

Douglas Batchelor, chief executive,
League Against Cruel Sports

invigorate

JANUARY 2010

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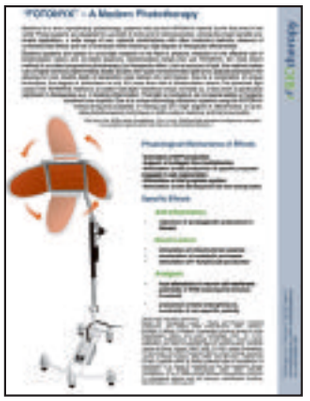
Shedding light on power of healing

BioStimul light therapy's natural solution



AS YOU know, light together with air, water and nutrition are four most important conditions we cannot live without.

Light therapy is a very old treatment method. The Ancient Greeks recognised light as a great healer and in 1903 Danish scientist Niels Ryberg Finsen was awarded a Nobel prize for treating skin disorders using concentrated light rays.

In the last 30 years, huge progress has been made in the utilisation of natural light energy for many medical conditions.

Maria Potancokova is a representative of the Czech company which invented and produces fully certified medical devices called BioStimul, lamps emitting red, cold light – natural energy.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Light from the BioStimul lamp is part of the visible white spectrum. Penetrating into deep structures of the body, this kind of light has the ability to evoke bio-chemical changes in cells.

The result is a restoration of damaged tissue. This kind of light has the ability to naturally activate our self-healing potential.

BioStimul works in three ways: as a pain reliever, anti-inflammatory and as biological stimulator.

In contrast to conventional infrared lamps, BioStimul, with its cold light energy, can be effectively administered from the beginning of inflammation with excellent results.

There are many cases where BioStimul has been used to very good effect.

These include different kinds of pain (both chronic and acute), rheumatism, arthritis, gout, muscle spasms, strained and torn muscles and tendons, bruises, swelling, mechanical damage, painful wounds, back pain, headache, skin conditions, foot ulcers (much appreciated by those with diabetes as there are not many treatments in classical medicine, but BioStimul can achieve the desired result), post-operative scars, bedsores, boils, burns, stretch marks, acne and scars after acne, eczema, psoriasis, regenerating ageing skin and reducing wrinkles.

CHILDREN'S DISORDERS

Teething and teeth pain, ear pain, respiratory diseases, colds and flu. Because young organisms respond quickly, therapy can be shortened by a third.

GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS

Pelvic pain, herpes and genital warts, chronic and acute inflammation (vulva, vagina), breast haematoma, surface genital injuries, breast inflammation, stretch marks during pregnancy and after delivery, acceleration of healing process after delivery or operation, depression and generally for the support of the immune system.

HOW TO USE THE LAMP

Apply BioStimul directly onto the affected area for two, three or four times a day for about 10 minutes and also to the relevant acupuncture points, if recommended.

The result depends on the condition, illness or disorder.

Acute problems are cured quicker, sometimes it needs just a few applications. Chronic disorders need longer and regular treatment at the beginning.

Biostimul is natural, non-invasive light therapy without radiation and without side effects. You cannot overdose and it is suitable for all ages. Application is easy and safe. The device is used in many hospitals across Europe.

Maria Potancokova has a long list of people who have been astounded and had much pain and discomfort eased using the lamp.

She offers 10-minute sessions from just £6, or you can order your own mobile lamp for £265.

• Contact Maria on 07837 555053 or email info@biolamp.eu for more information.

ECZEMA: Before (above) and after (below) BioStimul treatment with the lamp

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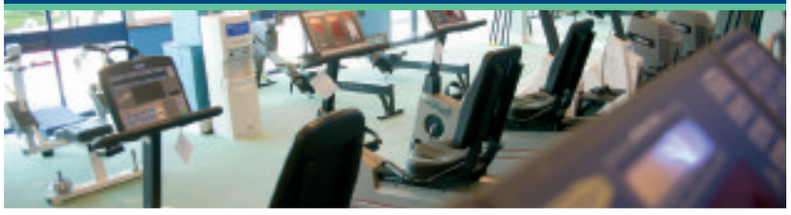

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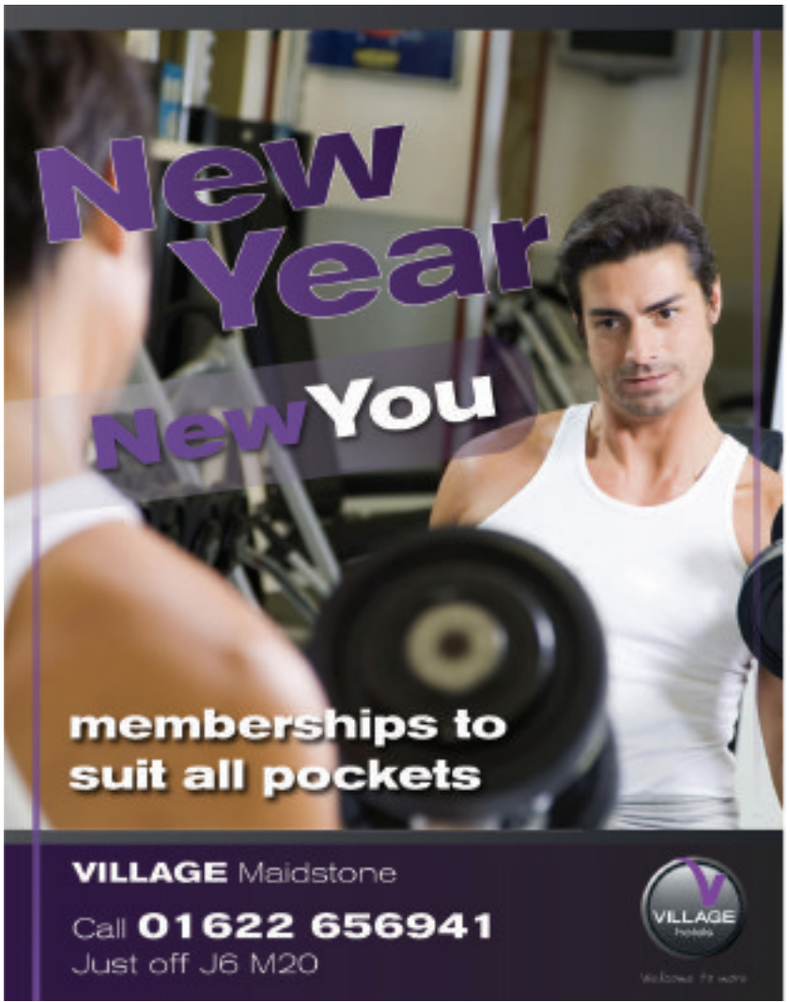

Keep on running and get back into shape

ADMIT it, you enjoyed that Christmas spread just a little too much …

With the beginning of a new year many of us are motivated to dust off the running shoes or renew the gym membership in a bid to lose those extra pounds and get in shape for the spring and summer.

Others are training for the London Marathon or the Canterbury 10k. Whatever the reason, this time of year sees an increase in the number of people training.

The Running Outlet is a dedicated running shop offering a variety of apparel, footwear and accessories across leading brands such as Asics, Nike, Mizuno, Saucony, Gore, Brooks, Garmin and Polar.

In Palace Street, Canterbury, not far from the Cathedral gate, the area has seen much growth and refurbishment while maintaining its character. It remains a refreshing alternative to the high street, with many boutiques and independent stores.

The Running Outlet provides a video/treadmill gait analysis service. This is a way of determining your running style and what type of shoe provides the best support and cushioning. About 80 per cent of runners pronate beyond a neutral stance, which means the foot rolls from the outside through and beyond a level or neutral position, pulling the body out of shape. This places extra strain on joints, muscles and ligaments. Manufacturers have developed technologies to aid runners who overpronate and there is a range of stability shoes that can realign your stance and provide a more comfortable running experience. Our service doesn't stop at supplying footwear. The staff are all experienced runners and can offer advice on all aspects of fitness, from stretches and training regimes to events and goals.

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NEW for 2010, Blakes Hair and Beauty is introducing Diamond Peel Dermabrasion.

This gentle treatment removes dead skin cells effectively from the face and body, improving texture and smoothing irregularities.

Flawless skin used to be the preserve of the rich and famous, but not any more.

Diamond Peel Dermabrasion by Natural Peel is changing the skin of beauty.

Using hundreds of tiny diamonds, this gentle treatment removes layers of dead skin cells from all areas of your body.

Elastin and collagen fibres are simultaneously stimulated by a controlled suction method to encourage cellular renewal, resulting in visibly smoother, softer, firmer and more radiantly youthful skin even after just one treatment.

However, a course of treatment is often recommended to achieve maximum results.

Our trained technicians work with different sizes and grains of diamond encrusted heads and will select the correct combination to suit your skin, allowing them to target all types of skin irregularities, all over your body, including:

- fine lines and wrinkles, including delicate areas around the eyes;
- sun-damaged, uneven and thickened skin;
- pigmentation;
- acne scarring – a safe and effective form of acne treatment;
- enlarged pores and dull skin;
- congested skin;
- stretch mark reduction.

Contact Blakes Hair and Beauty on 01227 768418 for more information.

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The Eastwell 9

To arrange a tour of the facilities or to request further information, please contact The Pavilion on 01233 213100
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A visit to The White House

AFTER the Christmas and New Year excess, there's no better way to cleanse body and soul than a visit to The White House in Deal.

Whichever one of the many different therapies and treatments you choose, you're sure to leave feeling relaxed, rejuvenated and ready to take on the world again.

You could start 2010 in the best possible way with a detoxifying Aroma Salt Glow – a deep cleansing and exfoliating treatment using aromatic sea salts and essential oils to remove impurities and dead skin cells as well as stimulating circulation.

Or how about a traditional full body massage to assist digestion and help strengthen the immune system. At this time of the year, harsh winds and colder temperatures can have damaging effects on your face, so repair and protect your skin with a relaxing luxury facial tailored to your skin type.

Our qualified therapists can also provide age-defying eye and lip treatments using products with natural ingredients and without the need for surgery. Your skin will glow with a healthy radiance all through the winter. If the harsh weather is leading to dry, lifeless hair, a Kerastase hair treatment can help restore its condition.

Every treatment includes a complimentary head and shoulder massage. How you feel very much depends on how you look and a new hairstyle can make you feel priceless.

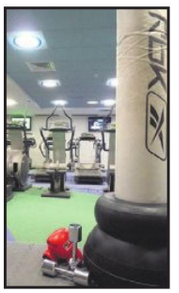
We believe every visit to The White House should be a special one and after the hectic pace of life over the festive period, you deserve to have a place to relax, unwind and prepare for the year ahead.

Call 01304 389922 to arrange a time for you, or visit www.whitehousekent.co.uk to view our full range of treatments.

Enjoy the best at your leisure

THE Village Leisure Club in Maidstone is able to offer facilities and memberships to suit all needs.

The Leisure Club is on the same site as the Village Hotel which boasts the Victory pub and Verve Grill restaurant – and the only remaining Starbucks in Maidstone.



The Leisure Club has been open five years and has established a reputation as a friendly, sociable club where members like to meet for a workout, take part in one of the 70 classes held each week or have a relaxing swim and spa.

And this new year members will have access to 21 new spinning bikes and a Powerplate.

Spinning classes are popular at The Village, with 16 classes a week held by fantastic instructors who ensure no-one can hide in the corner.

The arrival of a Powerplate enables the members even greater variety for their fitness programmes. The Powerplate is amazing at helping to tone up, aid stretching and even provide massage.

If you have never been to a gym before – and there are lots of people who haven't – our staff will ensure you are comfortable and ensure you meet your aims.

If you are have a particular goal in mind, for example running the London Marathon or getting ready for your wedding day, then you can have a personal trainer who will guarantee you are successful.

After all the hard work – whether it be in the gym, from a class, or just a busy day – then The Village is the ideal place to relax and unwind.

Our 25-metre swimming pool is perfect for most serious swimmers or those who just want to do a couple of lengths and relax in the whirlpool bath.

If we've whetted your appetite for trying the gym, or you just want to take a look around the club, give the team a call on 01622 656941 – we look forward to seeing you.

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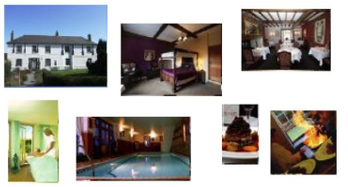

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Deanne leads the dance

DEANNE Berry, the Sydney-born dance and fitness queen who inspired GMTV audiences last summer with her sensational bikini diet workout routines, returns with her new DVD, Clubland – The Workout of Your Life!

The new release features 21 heart-pumping tracks which, when combined with Deanne's sensational choreography, will be sure to get you in the mood for fitness.

Deanne has worked with the likes of Kylie Minogue and Basement Jaxx and carved out a reputation for dance fitness.

Clubland combines killer moves with 21 of the hottest dance anthems to create the ultimate high-energy workout.

Deanne has split the workout into six sections: Warm – Work It Up; Cardio – Aerobic Floor Fillers; Dance – Ultra Dance Beat; Boxing – Clubland Combat; Muscle Toning – Total Tone; and Cool Down – Cool It Off.

The DVD is packed with extras including an interview with Deanne that features behind-the-scenes footage along with her comments on the workout, a montage and two special dance sections that feature one of the routines from the DVD, but with all the lights down to create a 'silhouette' segment.

The DVD features the biggest chart smashes and club hits, including tracks by Agnes, The Ian Carey Project, Sugababes, The Saturdays and no less than five UK number ones: Lady Gaga's Just Dance; Pixie Lott's Mama Do; Black Eyed Peas' Gotta Feelin'; Cascada and Evacuate the Dancefloor; and Chick and Tinchy Stryder's Never Leave You.

Against a backdrop of these dancefloor fillers, Deanne demonstrates easy-to-follow

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to clubland fitness

routines that between them will culminate into a hot dance workout, providing inspiration to burn those calories and tone that body.

Following the Warm – Work It Up routine, Deanne goes for the burn with Stamp Out, a pulsating cardio workout.

Then it's onto the main attraction with the exhilarating Ultra Dance Beat followed by a hi-energy boxing workout, Clubland Combat; time to catch your breath and focus on serious muscle definition with Total Tone, before that all-important Cool Down. Deanne combines the various dance sections of the DVD into one hot dance workout that can be tailored into an individual dance routine.

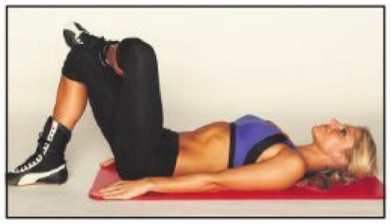
She said: "An hour's dancing can help shift hundreds of calories and is great aerobic exercise and fun at the same time.

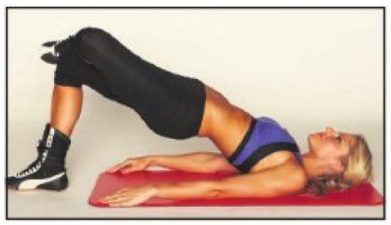
"With Clubland – The Workout of Your Life! you not only get a fantastic soundtrack but also motivation to burn those carbs, tone that body and dance your way to fitness in the privacy of your own home – and learn a few hot dance moves in the process."

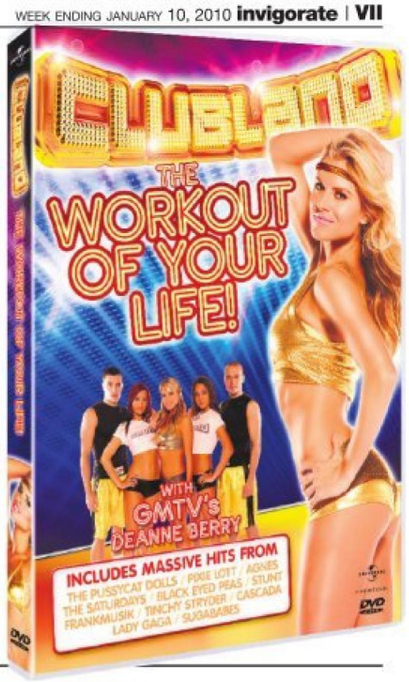
RIGHT: Cross leg/extended leg butt squeeze.

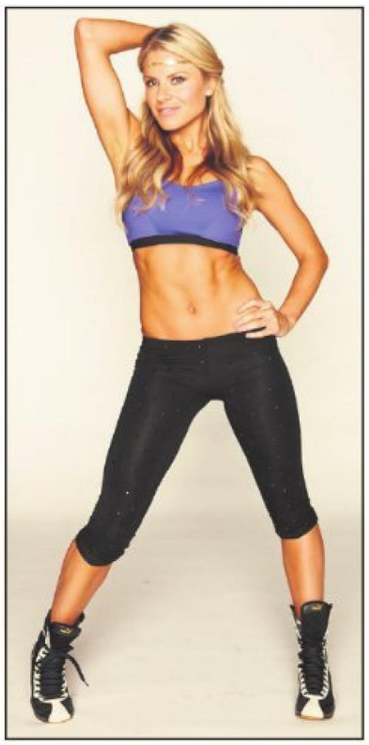
• Step 1. Lay face up on a mat or towel, place one foot on the floor, knee pointing to the ceiling, other foot crossed over supporting leg, ankle to knee.

• Step 2. Activate the core by drawing the navel towards the spine and slowly peel the pelvis off the floor, pressing the supporting heel into the floor and squeezing the glutes. Slowly lower from your raised position, back into neutral spine on your mat. Do two sets of 10-15 on both sides and remember to give the glutes a lovely stretch afterwards.









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Aspirational youngsters aiming high

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A GOOD career is high on the list of priorities for young people in Kent, according to a national poll.

About three-quarters of 16 to 18-year-olds revealed they have given serious thought to what profession they want when they leave full-time education.

And more than a third already have a clear idea of the kind of job they would like to have.

The poll, carried out as part of the Government's Backing Young Britain campaign, also found ambition in the county is high, with nearly half of the respondents predicting they will earn more than their parents.

Others said they believe they will have greater job satisfaction.

Popular career choices outlined by those questioned included teaching, business and finance. Information technology was the most popular choice.

Schools minister Iain Wright said it was crucial that young people get the help they need to accomplish their ambitions.

"Young people in Kent have many aspirations and dreams for the future and it's crucial that we help them gain the skills and knowledge they will need to fulfil their goals in today's competitive job market," he said.

The national poll followed a Government announcement that from 2015 young people in England will have to stay on in education or training until the age of 18.

Mr Wright added: "This will help prepare them for the future and improve their life and employment opportunities."

From 2015 young people can either stay on in full-time education, such as school or college, or take on work-based learning, such as an apprenticeship.

They also have the option of doing part-time education or training as long as they are employed, self-employed or volunteering more than 20 hours a week.

Mr Wright said: "In October, we launched a strategy to ensure young people and parents get important impartial information, advice and guidance about learning and work opportunities.

"This will help prepare them for a rapidly-changing jobs market and inspire them to fulfil their potential."

The Backing Young Britain campaign aims to bring business and public and voluntary sectors together to ensure the skills and experience of youngsters are not wasted.

It is made up of funding schemes for young people including a £1 billion Future Jobs Fund which will create 100,000 jobs, £6.9 million for learning opportunities, and a £140m package to provide an extra 35,000 apprenticeships in the UK.

For more information about the range of qualifications available to young people, go to www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning.

Digital path to the future for year 11s

SECONDARY school pupils have been using a new website to help decide the next step in their education.

Information about hundreds of opportunities has been made available to year 11 pupils through www.kentchoices4u.com, run by Kent County Council and Connexions Partnership Kent and Medway.

About 30,000 letters were sent to parents informing them about the website.

Cllr Sarah Hohler, KCC's cabinet member for children, families and education, said it gave students easy access to all the information they needed in one place.

Challenging

"Year 11 is an important time, when pupils look at whether to go to college or into a sixth form," she said.

"These are challenging times and it can be daunting to decide what subjects to study or what training courses to go on."

Gordon Bernard, chief executive of Connexions Kent and Medway, said the website helped young people make informed choices.

"Not only about traditional subjects, but also the growing range of work-related qualifications, including apprenticeships, key skills and the new diplomas available," he added.

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First of a new breed

APPRENTICES are celebrating after being the first to complete training in sustainable construction.

The programme, called the Gateway to SusCon, is being run at North West Kent College and is funded by Seeda and the European Social Fund. It offers courses including energy efficiency, waste management, biodiversity and climate change adaptation, to apprentices in the building trade.

Sally Clarke, SusCon business manager, said: "Our aim is to develop a new curriculum designed to meet the needs of the sector with a strong employer lead to ensure the training packages are fit for purpose. It's exciting to see the first group of apprentices trained under the programme."

For more information about the courses, contact Ms Clarke on 01322 312042 or email sally.clarke@suscon.uk.net.

Matthew earns gas accolade

A TRAINEE gas worker has been commended for his hard work by being named Southern Gas Network's best apprentice.

Matthew Jarvest, from Bromley, was selected from 23 candidates to receive the accolade.

The 21-year-old, who is based at the network's West Kent depot in Orpington, said he was shocked when he realised he had been chosen.

"It was mentioned when I joined the company that there would be an award for best apprentice in my field," he said.

"I must say though, when I found out I had been chosen it came as a surprise."

His manager, Steve Catling, said he had been highly impressed by Mr Jarvest's dedication to his work and willingness to learn.

He said: "He showed a great attitude to his practical work and his academic studies and I know he will be a great addition to our team."

Mr Jarvest's role involves maintenance of the high-pressure gas transmission network in Orpington. His is undertaking a three-year apprenticeship.

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PLUMBING career profile

The Absolute & Davison plumbing team; Glen Davison (left) Karl Newton (right)

> "Financially my decision to retrain has been a good return on investment"

Karl Newton, from Herne Bay, worked for many years as a HGV driver. His job took him all over the country, working long and often unsociable hours.

At 32, and with a young family, he felt he needed to change career so he could have more time at home. He retrained to be a plumber at The Plumbing Academy, Edenbridge, Kent and "has never looked back," he remarked.

Five years ago he discussed the options of retraining in a trade with a friend, Glen Davison, also from Herne Bay. Following a lot of research both Karl and Glen decided to embark on training at The Plumbing Academy, a private training provider specialising in training career changers to enter the plumbing trade. In less than 12 months Karl and Glen had achieved their NVQ Level 2 and Level 3 in plumbing and were then able to register with Corgi, now known as Gas Safe. This allows them to undertake all gas related work, as well as general wet plumbing jobs.

With the support of his wife, Karl financed this career change by releasing some equity from their home. "The Plumbing Academy was not the cheapest option around but it was definitely the most professionally run and fully equipped training facility we visited. Most importantly, it offered the correct and full range of nationally recognised City & Guilds qualifications," said Karl.

Now five years down the line, Karl and Glen are successfully running their own plumbing business, Absolute & Davison.

"Financially my decision to retrain has been a good return on investment. My overall quality of life is much improved. I thoroughly enjoy my job and I would do it all again," commented Karl.

Absolute & Davison can be contacted on: 07840 734314

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Closing date: 22 January 2010.

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Offering support to the Administrator, you will have top MS Office skills and a 'can do' approach. You will be able to communicate with a wide cross-section of staff and external contacts in a highly professional manner. You need to be able to prioritise, work to tight deadlines and respond appropriately to referrals.

If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Sue Hamilton, Service Manager KCA Thanet on 01843 298355 ex. 217 or Christine Gordon, Admin Lead on 01795 590795 ex. 2.

Closing date: Wednesday 20 January 2010.
Interview date: Wednesday 27 January 2010.

Application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 635.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

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Account Manager

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The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with good interpersonal skills, strong relationship-building capability and have excellent verbal and written communication ability. They will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within media, will have a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media and ideally knowledge of the Kent marketplace.

KOS Media offers a good basic salary, alongside performance and target-related bonus, plus five weeks annual holiday.

If you believe you are a polished professional sales person looking for a challenging role, please submit your CV to Head of Department christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

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Applications in writing please with detailed CV, giving a brief summary of previous experience, to Mr Les Knight at Pomphrey of Sittingbourne Ltd, London Road, Bapchild, Kent ME9 9AQ or by email to les.knight@pomphreys.co.uk

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needed at our Pembury office for our Insulation Division to liaise with customers, schedule team workloads, maintain customer/job database, and produce management information, so a talent for working accurately is more important than speed.

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Tel. Anne on **07803 928320** in confidence for further information.
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We particularly welcome applications from underrepresented groups and will meet reasonable living expenses for staff who live outside the area.

The roles above are the indicative levels that we seek secondments at. There is, however, some scope for flexibility for high calibre individuals who can help us on our journey to be "outstanding"!

If you are interested in knowing more please contact our retained consultant Ken Pullan on 07725 128661 or by email ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

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Working as part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends.

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EDUCATION
The successful applicants will be responsible for assisting teachers in the school and have a particular responsibility towards one teaching group.

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For all Term Time Only posts, there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid. For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsible with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

For an application form and information pack please call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine), or email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Please note that CV's will not be considered.
Applications should be received no later than 12 noon, Friday 22nd January 2010.

www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

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Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

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Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 15th January 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Valence School

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FULL TIME – Working Term Time Only

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Shifts are 10 p.m. until 8 a.m. Term Time Only.

This post involves working waking nights, and supporting students with their personal care needs over the night. There are a number of nights available.
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£14,099 - £15,984 full time equivalent plus unsocial hours allowance

.....

Valence School is a Kent County Council all age residential school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and associated learning and communication difficulties.

Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting every student's welfare. We expect all staff to share our commitment. The successful applicants will require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check.

For further information and an application form, please contact Staff Services Department. Please note the closing date for applications is Friday 22nd January 2010 at 4pm.

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Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 4-19 with severe learning difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w, term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

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For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted

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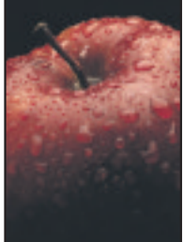

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Nursery Officer **Ref: CA0925L**

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Hours: 37 hours per week, working a shift pattern

Our full daycare nursery is looking for another member of staff to join its busy team, working with babies and children under the age of three years. If you have an early years qualification, (minimum level 2), post qualifying experience and a passion for providing the highest quality care and education for young children then we would like to hear from you.

Café Worker **Ref: CA0926L**

(maternity cover for approximately 6-9 months)
Grade D1 Salary: £12,787 - £16,440 per annum
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As café worker you will be involved with the day-to-day running of the café including preparing and cooking food, menu planning and preparing meals for children in our full daycare nursery as well as assisting in making the community café a focus for our community. You will be enthusiastic, passionate about food and nutrition, confident, innovative and customer focused with experience of a fast moving catering environment.

Any offer of employment for these posts will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Disclosure.

For further information or an informal discussion please contact the centre on 01634 338833.

Closing date for both posts: Friday, 29 January 2010

For an application pack or to apply visit www.medway.gov.uk or phone 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm or **01634 332843** 24-hour answerphone. **Alternatively email: jobs@medway.gov.uk** quoting the reference.

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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

Further Education Sports Co-Ordinator Ref: PR029

Salary: £20,368 - £26,255 pro rata
15 hours per week (Medway and Maidstone Campus)

We are looking for an individual with a proven track record in Sports Development and the Further Education sector, to play a key role in increasing participation towards the 5 hour offer in sport and physical activity for young people aged 16-19yrs. This will entail the coordination and further development of the college's pathways and support, contributing to the development of the healthy college award and the cross-college activity programme, including outdoor pursuits and active leisure initiatives. As part of the Sports team, the ideal candidate will have excellent communication and leadership skills. Experience of working with young people and liaising with a wide range of organisations including schools within the three school sports partnerships, sports clubs and sports governing bodies is desirable.

Closing date: Friday 15 January 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

BEKESBOURNE LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of cabling works on behalf of BT, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury, on or after 17 January 2010, for an estimated period of one day or until the works are complete.

There is no through access between Littlebourne Road and Bekesbourne Lane. The alternative route for through traffic will be Littlebourne Road, Canterbury Road, Bekesbourne Lane, Bekesbourne Hill and Bekesbourne Lane.

HAWKS LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of new water and electricity supplies, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hawks Lane, Canterbury, outside number 18, on or after 25 January 2010 for an estimated period of 5 days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Hawks Lane, Stour Street, Beer Cart Lane and St Margaret's Street

There will be a suspension of the one-way Traffic Orders in respect of Hawks Lane and St Margaret's Street.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

DENE ROAD, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic and a temporary parking restriction on Dene Road, Dartford for the full length.

The Order will become effective on 25th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 7 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Darenth Road, Brent Lane and Cumberland Drive.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works for Southern Gas Networks.

RED LODGE ROAD, WILMINGTON (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Red Lodge Road, Wilmington between its junctions with Cameron Close and Vanessa Way.

The Order will become effective on 11th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 6 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Red Lodge Road, Tile Kiln Lane, Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood Road and Vanessa Way.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate footway resurfacing for the reason that there is insufficient road width.

A206 CROSSWAYS BOULEVARD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (TEMPORARY SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on A206 Crossways Boulevard, Greenhithe as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 11th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 12 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works in connection with the section 278 works for the ASDA store entrance.

Schedule 1

Road Name: A206 Crossways Boulevard, Greenhithe
Extent: Between Station Road roundabout to Claire Causeway roundabout
Date: 11th January 2010 for 12 weeks
Travelling east right hand lane will be closed

Road Name: A206 Crossways Boulevard, Greenhithe
Extent: Between Station Road roundabout to Claire Causeway roundabout
Date: 11th January 2010 for 12 weeks
Travelling west right hand lane will be closed

Road Name: A206 Crossways Boulevard, Greenhithe
Extent: Between Station Road roundabout to Claire Causeway roundabout
Date: 11th January 2010 for 12 weeks
30mph speed restriction

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford & District of Sevenoaks

VARIOUS ROADS, DARENTH & SOUTH DARENTH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads Darenth and South Darneth as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 11th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 17th January 2010 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in the attached schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the Dartford 10KM race.

Schedule 1

Road Name: Roman Villa Road
Extent: Between its junctions with Darenth Hill to Holmesdale Hill
Diversion: No diversion – GLL marshals will be giving motorist's diversion advice

Road Name: Rabbits Road
Extent: Between its junctions with Shrubbery Road to Canada Farm Road
Diversion: Shrubbery Road, Holmesdale Hill and St Margarets Road until 9.50am – East Hill, Devon Road, Cedar Drive, Main Road, Parsonage Lane and Darenth Hill after 9.50am

Road Name: Gills Road
Extent: Between its junctions with Holmesdale Hill to Green Street Green Road
Diversion: Green Street Green Road, Darenth Hill, Parsonage lane, Main Road and Devon Road

Road Name: Wilson Lane
Extent: Between its junctions with Gills Road to Rabbits Road
Diversion: Green Street Green Road, Darenth Hill, Parsonage lane, Main Road and Devon Road

Road Name: Canada Farm Road
Extent: Between its junctions with Three Gates Road to Green Street Green Road
Diversion: Green Street Green Road, Darenth Hill, Parsonage lane, Main Road and Devon Road

Road Name: NO ENTRY to St Margarets Road from Green Street Green Road
Diversion: Green Street Green Road, Darenth Hill, Parsonage lane, Main Road and Devon Road

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

A260 THE STREET, DENTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of urgent drainage repairs, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on the A260 The Street, Denton, between the junctions with Denton Lane and Agester Lane, on or after 13 January 2010. This is for an estimated period of up to three weeks, or until the works are complete. It is planned that the works will be carried out on weekdays only, with the road re-opened at weekends.

The signed suggested alternative route for through traffic will be via A260 Canterbury Road, Spitfire Way, Canterbury Road, A20 New Dover Road, Archcliffe Road, Limekiln Street, Snargate Street, Townwall Street, A2 Jubilee Way, Dover Road and A260 Canterbury Road.

HONEYWOOD ROAD AND HONEYWOOD PARKWAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Honeywood Road and Honeywood Parkway between the Whitfield Roundabout and Tesco Superstore on or after 11 January 2010 for an estimated period of twelve nights or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be in various phases as signed on site.

This order will come into force on Monday 11 January 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

BRUNSWICK STREET, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Brunswick Street between Upper Stone Street and Orchard Street.

The Order will become effective on 17th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, works are planned to last for up to one day or until completed. Any further closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place. The dates for works will be notified on site 14 days in advance.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is for eastbound traffic via Upper Stone Street, George Street, Brunswick Street and for westbound traffic via Brunswick Street, Priory Road, Foster Street, Upper Stone Street.

Metro Traffic Management Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to install a tower crane. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is John McKeown on 01322 335595.

BUNCE COURT ROAD, OTTERDEN (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Bunce Court Road, Otterden between the junctions of Slade Road and Hurstwood Road on or after Monday 11th January 2010 for a period of up to 4 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is for eastbound traffic via Slade Road, Wyebanks Road, Hurstwood Road and for westbound traffic vice versa.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Steve Whitlock on 01233 714082.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

COPPINGS ROAD, LEIGH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Coppings Road, Leigh between its junctions with Scabharbour Road and Lower Street.

The Order will become effective on 11th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Coppings Road, Compasses Hill, Penshurst Road, B2027 High Street, B2027 Hildenborough Road, Rings Hill Hildenborough and Lower Street Hildenborough.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

BOUGHTON CHURCH ROAD, BOUGHTON UNDER BLEAN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new water supply, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Boughton Church Road, Boughton under Blean, on or after 11 January 2010. This is for an estimated period of 3 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between the junctions of Dane Court Road and North Lane. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Dane Court Road, Crouch Lane, Selling Road and South Street.

CHILTON AVENUE, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Chilton Avenue, Sittingbourne on or after 11 January 2010 for an estimated period of 12 weeks or until the works are complete. The closure will be in phases, as shown below.

Extent: between the junctions with Bell Road and Millfield
Dates: 11 January 2010 for up to 3 weeks

Extent: between the junctions with Millfield and Fairview Road
Dates: 1 February 2010 for up to 3 weeks

Extent: between the junctions with Fairview Road and South Avenue
Dates: 22 February 2010 for up to 6 weeks

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Bell Road, Stanhope Avenue and South Avenue.

BRENLEY CORNER, BOUGHTON UNDER BLEAN (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS & PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of junction improvements and resurfacing, the Kent County Council has made an Order in respect of the A299 Thanet Way off-slip leading to Brenley Corner, Boughton under Blean and the A2 London Road, Graveney with Goodnestone. The Order takes effect on or after 11 January 2010, for an estimated period of 2 weeks or until the works are complete.

The effect of the Order is -

(a) To prohibit traffic on the A299 Thanet Way off-slip leading to Brenley Corner, Boughton under Blean, for up to 9 consecutive weekday nights, on or after 11 January 2010.

The works are planned to be carried out each night between the hours of 8.00 pm and 6.00 am

The alternative route for through traffic will be via M2 London bound, Ashford Road off-slip, A251 Ashford Road, Ashford Road on-slip, M2 coastbound, M2 coastbound off-slip.

(b) To impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 50 mph at the following locations

(i) On the London bound carriageway of the A299 Thanet Way from a point approximately one mile north east of the junction with Brenley Corner

(ii) On both carriageways of the A2 London Road, Graveney with Goodnestone, for a distance of approximately 100 metres westwards from the Brenley Corner junction.

It should be noted that the Highways Agency are allowing London bound non-motorway traffic to use the M2 between Junctions 7 and Junction 6 whilst the slip road is closed, under a separate Traffic Order.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

HIGH STREET, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Improvement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on High Street, Broadstairs from Queens Road and Prospect Place on or after 25 January 2010 for an estimated period of seven weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Carlton Avenue, Lindenthorpe Road, Crow Hill, Nelson Place and Albion Street, also Charlotte Street, York Street, York Avenue and Queens Road.

This order will come into force on Monday 25 January 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a period for a maximum period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

RUMFIELDS ROAD AND FAIRFIELD ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Rumfields Road and Fairfield Road, Broadstairs, on or after 28 January 2010 for an estimated period of 1 night or until the works are complete. It is planned that the works will be carried out between the hours of 7.00 pm and 3.00 am.

Rumfields Road will be closed between the junctions of Westwood Road and The Maples; Fairfield Road will be closed between the roundabout and the junction with Collingwood Close.

The suggested alternative route for through traffic will be via Westwood Road, Margate Road, Pysons Road, Bromstone Road, Ramsgate Road, Gladstone Road, Seafield Road, Osborne Road, The Broadway, St. Peters Road and Broadstairs Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

VIGO HILL, TROTTISCLIFFE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Vigo Hill between A227 Gravesend Road and Taylor's Lane on or after Monday 25th January 2010 for a period of up to 3 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via A227 Gravesend Road, A20 London Road, Ford Lane, Taylor's Lane and vice versa.

South East Water Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to permanently reinstate the carriageway. Should you require any further information regarding these works, the contact is Nicola Stone of Clancy Docwra on 01634 873290.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

MATTHEWS LANE, HADLOW
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Matthews Lane, Hadlow from the junction of Matthews Lane with Forge Lane to the bottom of the hill on or after Tuesday 26th January 2010 for up to 1 week or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is for northbound traffic via Common Road, A26 Maidstone Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane, Mereworth Road, Stan Lane, Forge Lane and for southbound traffic vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to carry out drainage works. Should you require any further information the contact is Jamie Finch on 07764 774891.

PUTTENDEN ROAD, SHIPBOURNE
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Puttenden Road approximately 10m north of public car park on or after Monday 11th January 2010 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Claygate Lane, Reeds Lane, Back Lane and A227 Shipbourne Road and vice versa.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to lay a gas pipeline. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Stewart Boughtflower on 07827 308269.

VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the routes described in the Schedule.

The alternative routes as described will be noted in the schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure. The Order will become effective on Tuesday 26th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

Schedule

Road Name: Wrotham Hill Road, Wrotham
Extent: Between Tumblefield Road and Fairseat Lane
Dates: Start: 11th February 2010 End: 13th February 2010
Diversion: Tumblefield Road, Plaxdale Green Road, Stansted Hill, Vigo Hill, Platt House Lane, Fairseat Lane

Road Name: Pratling Street, Aylesford
Extent: Between Old Mill Lane and Rochester Road
Dates: Start: 8th February 2010 End: 10th February 2010
Diversion: Rochester Road and Pratling Street

Road Name: Lower Haysden Lane, Tonbridge
Extent: Between Brook Street and Upper Haysden Lane
Dates: Start: 4th February 2010 End: 6th February 2010
Diversion: Brook Street and Upper Haysden Lane

Road Name: Smithers Lane, East Peckham
Extent: Whole length
Dates: Start: 18th February 2010 End: 20th February 2010
Diversion: N/A

Road Name: Blackman's Lane, Hadlow
Extent: Whole length
Dates: Start: 19th February 2010 End: 25th February 2010
Diversion: Three Elm Lane, A26 Hadlow Road and A26 Tonbridge Road

Road Name: A26 Woodgate Way, Tonbridge
Extent: Between A2014 Pembury Road and B2017 Five Oak Green Road
Dates: Start: 23rd February 2010 End: 24th February 2010
Diversion: A2014 Pembury Road, B2260 Quarry Hill Road/Railway Approach, Vale Road, Avenue Du Puy, Sovereign Way, Vale Road, A26 Vale Rise, A26 Woodgate Way

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate carriageway resurfacing works to be undertaken by Kent Highway Services.

Please Note: Access will be maintained for all residents, businesses and their visitors as much as possible during the works.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

MAIDSTONE ROAD, PEMBURY
(30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic traveling at any speed greater than 30mph in both directions on Maidstone Road, Pembury between the entrance of Downingbury Farm to a point on the road 50m north of that entrance on or after Monday 11th January 2010 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to lay a clean water pipeline. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Nicola Stone of Clancy Docwra on 01634 873290.

MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD/GROSVENOR ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mount Pleasant Road/Grosvenor Road between the junctions of Newton Road and Goods Station Road on or after Sunday 31st January and Sunday 7th February 2010 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via A264 Church Road, A26 London Road, A26 Mount Ephraim, Grosvenor Road, Upper Grosvenor Road, Meadow Road, Goods Station Road and vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for highway improvement works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Darren Hickman on 08458 247 800.

QUAKER LANE, CRANBROOK
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council intend to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the entire length of Quaker Lane Cranbrook from Angley Road to Waterloo Road or after Monday 25th January 2010 for an estimated period of up to 3 Weekes or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is Waterloo Road, Angley Road woodlands, and Angley Road and vice versa.

EDF apologise for any inconvenience caused, which are necessary to install a new electrical supply. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Mark Apps on 07920150842.

For further information, please contactKent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that Kay Irene Vamplew has applied to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of premises to be known as The Village Convenience Store situated within the grounds of The Star Inn, Maidstone Road, Matfield, Tonbridge TN12 7JR.

The application seeks the licence in respect of the following: The sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises, between the hours of 0600 and 2000 daily.

Details of the register of record of the application can be viewed at the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Offices (Licensing Dept.) Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells during normal office hours. Any representations from interested parties or responsible authorities must be made in writing to the Council by 05.02.2010.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is a fine not exceeding £5,000.

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Development Framework:
Core Strategy Development Plan Document - Independent Examination

Notice of changes to Core Policy 6: Housing Provision re. affordable housing provision

The hearing sessions for the Core Strategy Examination concluded on 15 December 2009.
The Inspector reached the preliminary conclusion that the evidence base justified reducing the threshold for the provision of affordable housing in Royal Tunbridge Wells and Southborough from 15 dwellings to 10 dwellings to align it with the proposed threshold elsewhere in the borough. He also considered that the Core Strategy could be made clearer in relation to how affordable housing on rural exceptions sites will be provided.

Representations are invited on the changes proposed to be made to the Core Strategy in response to the Inspector's preliminary conclusions. They are available to view on the Borough Council's website at www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk and copies are available for inspection at the following locations:

- Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2AB. The Gateway is open from 9am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 9am-6.30pm on Wednesdays; and 10am-4pm on Saturdays
- Weald Information Centre, The Old Fire Station, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3HF, open from 8.30am-5pm (Monday to Friday)
- All libraries in the Tunbridge Wells Borough area. Please check with the particular library for opening times

Representations must be received in writing by midnight on Friday 5 February 2010:

- By e-mail to: planning.policy@tunbridgewells.gov.uk
- By post to: Planning Policy, Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS
- By fax to: 01892 554076

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

The Traffic Management (Kent County Council) Permit Scheme Order 2009

As required by Regulation 17(1) of The Traffic Management Permit Scheme (England) Regulations 2007, notice is hereby given that Kent County Council will start operation of the Kent Permit Scheme on 25 January 2010.

Kent County Council will be operating a permit scheme under Part 3 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. The Secretary of State for Transport made an Order on 30 November 2009 under section 34(4) and (5) and 39(2) of that Act for the Scheme to commence operation on 25 January 2010 (00:01).

The approved Kent Permit Scheme, describing the types of works or activities for which, and type of roads on which, permits will be required, and all other details of the Scheme including the processes for applying for permits and the level of permits fees and when and by whom they are payable, can be found on the KCC website at www.kent.gov.uk

A copy of the Kent County Council Permit Scheme is also deposited and can be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ (ref: LS/A/09072/359).

From 25 January 2010 promoters of all works or activities specified in the Scheme as requiring a permit must obtain such a permit from Kent County Council before starting work on the highway. Working without a permit or working in contravention of conditions attached to a permit is an offence, and in such circumstances, a promoter may be subject to a fixed penalty notice issued by the Council.

Kent County Council is committed to working with the promoters of activities on their roads to achieve the objectives of the scheme and its contribution to the better management of the Council's roads.

If promoters or other parties have any questions about the Scheme, please contact kent.permitscheme@kent.gov.uk or refer to www.kent.gov.uk for more information.

David Beaver, Traffic Manager, Kent County Council
Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

Kent County Council

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

09/03995/LBC	The Old Sweet Shop The Street, Benenden (LB) – Listed Building Consent: Internal alterations to include provision of a cloakroom at ground floor level and modernisation of first floor bathroom facilities.
09/03881/HOUSE	The Coach House 13 Langton Road, Broadwater (LB) (CA) – Roof alterations to single-storey part of building (ridge raised 750mm) to form mezzanine floor within.
09/03948/LBC	Hazelden Farm Marden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst (LB) – Listed Building Consent: Extend four bay garage block by 1 metre, removal of three sets of doors, addition of secure store to rear.
09/03811/FUL	Pitcher & Piano 3– 5 Church Road, Culverden (CA) – New furniture, jumbrellas, planting and bar-B-Q counter to existing external front area.
09/03954/HOUSE	7 Mountfield Gardens Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park (CA) – Conversion of basement to habitable space. New doors to rear.
09/03683/FUL	2 Castle Street Southborough, Southborough North (CA) – Demolition of covered yard and workshop building, change of use to C3 residential and construction of 3 two storey, two bedroom dwellings.
09/03903/HOUSE	1 Winstone Scott Avenue Langton Green, Speldhurst (CA) – Demolition of existing single-storey extension and erection of two-storey side extension.

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan; (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way; (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area; (LB) Affecting a Listed Building; (MAJOR) Major Applications; (MAST) Mast Applications; (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by e-mail to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 09 January 2010

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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First**Drive**

by **STEVE LOADER**

Seat**Exeo**

Audi offers new lease of lifestyle to former Avant

IN MANY ways, the 'Audi for Seat money' argument works even better for the Seat Exeo ST estate follow-up than it does for the saloon version launched earlier.

The Audi A4 Avant, from which it is derived, has always been one of the most sought 'lifestyle estates' of recent years.

And though the previous generation A4 donor design is now nine years old, it hadn't really been outclassed even when Audi axed it in 2008.

It was certainly worth re-locating the production line to Spain and tweaking to create a prestigious saloon and estate range in double quick time.

Even better, it allowed a fellow VW group brand to attack a sector where it didn't challenge before, while avoiding the design, tooling up and pre-production costs of a totally new car.

Thus, the Exeo can not only retain existing Seat customers trading up to a family model, but also court possible conquests – buyers who never looked at the brand before, but now tempted by that 'cut-price Audi' proposition – a pitch Seat played down originally, only for dealers to shout it from the rooftops.

As I said, the lifestyle estate appeal of the ST is also tempting from £19,155, just a £1,000 more that the Exeo saloon starting price £18,155, and a hefty £3,500 less than the current A4 Avant entry model with a more Spartan specification than the Seat.

Okay, cynics may predict the erstwhile Audi cannot possibly hold its value like the current A4, but if you are in it for the long haul then the ST is a bargain even if its re-modelled nose can't help looking like a 'dodgy Audi'.

Like its previous A4 donor, passengers in the rear are still cramped, but you do get better build quality, safety, reliability, smart cabin, decent load space and a terrific drive ported over, too.

In fact, it is a better drive than before; Seat engineers could have gone with the same sporty chassis set-up as the Audi, but it was tuned to please drivers rather than passengers.

Seat also offers a sporty option, but the standard chassis is more of an all-round crowd pleaser and still handles tidily.

Another Exeo upgrade over the Audi is a dashboard pinched from the A4 Cabriolet – a class above its saloon and estate sister in quality at the time. This adds to a generous Exeo spec including Bluetooth hands-free phone connectivity, cruise control, steering wheel-mounted audio controls, dual zone climate control and alloys.

SEAT dealers are also celebrating the arrival of the £16,695 Ibiza flagship, the Bocanegra (black face) spin-off from the Cupra hot hatch model.

It is that all too rare beast: a useable everyday car that just happens to have beefy looks, power and handling.

Seat hints at the car's lightness of touch by offering it only – at least for now – with the usual Cupra powertrain: a 180PS (178bhp) 1.4-litre turbocharged and supercharged petrol engine paired with a new seven-speed version of the VW twin-clutch DSG auto 'box, which offers sporty manual gear selection, too.

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09 09 FOCUS 1-6 TITANIUM AUTO PAS 5 DR SEA GREY SILVER 5000MILES £13995
09 09 ZAFIRA 19 EXCLUSIVE DIESEL AUTO PAS BLACK MET DEL MILES £15495
09 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 900 MILES £7995
09 09 MAZDA 3 TAKARA 1-6 AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5DR SILVER 7000 MILES £12495
09 09 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 2000 MILES £9995
09 09 FORD C-MAX 2-0 ZETEC AUTO PAS 5DR AVALON BLUE 3000 MILES £13995
09 09 FUSION 1-6 ZETEC PLUS AUTO PAS 5DR AVALON BLUE 2000 MILES £10995
09 09 NEW FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DRAUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE MET 3000 MILES £12995
09 09 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 200 MILES £10995
09 09 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS DENIM BLUE 4000 MILES £9995
09 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 3000M £7995
09 09 MECEDES A160 ELEGANCE AUTO PAS MET GOLD 750 MILES £15495
09 58 NISSAN MICRA ACTIVE LUXURY 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 1700 MILES £8995
08 58 NEW FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C DEEP RED 3000 MILES £11995
08 58 MAZDA 3 TAKARA 1-6 AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5DR RED MET 5000 MILES £11995
08 58 A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SILVER 7000 MILES £13995
08 58 MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION ESTATE AUTO PAS BLACK 600 MILES £9995
08 58 GRAND SCENIC 2-0 S DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C GREY 7000 MILES £12995
08 58 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5 DR BLACK 4000M £7495
08 58 FORD FUSION 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE SILVER METALLIC 6000 MILES £9995
08 58 FORD FUSION 1-4 STYLE CLIMATE SILVER METALLIC 5000 MILES £9495
08 58 PEUGEOT 107 2-TRONIC 3DR AUTO PAS RED 1400 MILES £7995
08 58 PEUGEOT 107 2-TRONIC 3DR AUTO PAS RED 2000 MILES £7995
08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR ICE BLUE 4000 MILES £8995
08 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 7000 MILES £8995
08 58 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 1900 MILES £7995
08 58 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 1000 MILES £7995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 1800 MILES £8995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 3000 MILES £8995
08 58 RENAULT CLIO 1-6 EXPRESSION 3DR AUTO PAS 750 MILES £9495
08 58 TOYOTA AURIS TR AUTO PAS AIR/C DIESEL 5 DR GREY 4000 MILES £11995
08 58 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR BLUE 6000 MILES £9995
08 58 KAKGOO AUTHENTIQUE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C MET BLUE 8000 MILES £9995

COUPES & CONVERTIBLES

09 09 FORD FOCUS CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS ALLOYS RED 4000 MILES £16995
08 58 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT CC 1-6 AUTO ALL BLACK LEATHER2000MILES £15995
08 58 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC ACENTA AUTO PAS LATTE 4000 MILES £11995
08 08 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC ACENTA AUTO PAS PACIFIC 2000 MILES £10995
08 57 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS FLAME 6000 MILES £13495
07 57 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC SPORT AUTO PAS INFERNO 7000 MILES £10995
07 57 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 5000 MILES £13495
06 56 MICRA 1-6 SPORT CONVERT AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLUE 12000 MILES £9995
06 56 MICRA 1-6 ESSENSA CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 18000 MILES £9995
06 56 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS GREY 16000 MILES £10995
06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 19000 MILES £10495
06 06 MICRA 1-6 ESSENSA CONVERT AUTO PAS SILVER 28000 MILES £9995
06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 21000 MILES £9995
06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 10000 MILES £10495
06 06 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 2-0 CONVERT AUTO PAS MISTY GREY 39000M £9495

FUSION & FIESTA

07 57 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/C BLUE 19000 MILES £7995
07 57 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR BLACK8000 MILES £8995
07 07 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR GREEN 4000 MILES £8495
06 56 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 8000 MILES £7495
06 56 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/C BLUE 13000 MILES £6995

FORD FOCUS

08 08 NEW FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DRAUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 4000 MILES £11495
08 57 NEW FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 7000 MILES £10495
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE ESTATE AUTO AIR/C MOONDUST SILVER1900MILES £8995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C MOONDUST SILVER 7000 MILES £8995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DRAUTO PAS AIR/CALLOYS GREEN 5000 MILES £8995
07 57 FOCUS 16 ZETEC 3DRAUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SEA GREY 13000 MILES £8995
07 07 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS SEA GREY AIR 17000 MILES £8995
06 56 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS TONIC BLUE 23000 MILES £8995
06 56 FORD FOCUS GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SEA GREY 13000 MILES £7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS TONIC BLUE 13000 MILES £7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS SILVER 17000 MILES £7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS TANGO 18000 MILES £7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR OCEAN BLUE 8000 MILES £7995
06 56 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA AUTO ESTATE PAS AIR/C TONIC BLUE 18000 MILES £8495
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C STEEL GREY 12000 MILES £6995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 17000 MILES £6995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 17000 MILES £6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX HATCH AUTO PAS AIR/C STRATOS SILVER 10000 MILES £6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS BLUE 12000 MILES £7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS SILVER 21000 MILES £7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIRC ALLOYS SILVER18000MLS £7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS 11000MLS £7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE TONIC16000MLS £7495
05 55 FORD FOCUS GHIA 1-6 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C DENIM BLUE 28000 MILES £6995
03 03 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA AUTO 4 DOOR PAS AIR/C PEPPER RED 48000 MILES £4995
02 51 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS SILVER 41000 MILES £2995

MONDEO

06 56 MONDEO 2-0 GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER METALLIC 23000 MILES £9495
06 56 MONDEO 2-0 LX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SILVER METALLIC 24000 MILES £8495

CITROENS

08 08 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES £9995
08 08 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES £9995
06 56 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO DIABLO 16000 MILES £8495

MAZDA

07 57 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SILVER BLUE 17000MILES £10995
07 57 MAZDA 3 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 5000 MILES £10995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SEA GREY 16000 MILES £9995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR MET BLUE 9000 MILES £9995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SEA GREY 21000 MILES £9495

CORSA

08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DR ICE BLUE 300 MILES £8995
08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 4000 MILES £9495
07 57 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS BLUE 9000 MILES £9495
07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DR ULTRA BLUE15000 MILES £7995
07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE 2000MILES £8995
07 56 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 MILES £7995
07 56 CORSA 1-2 LIFE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 5000 MILES £7995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 ACTIVE 5 DR AIR/C AUTO PAS BLUE 16000 MILES £6995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 23000 MILES £6495
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 11000 MILES £6995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS ULTRA BLUE 2000MILES £6995
06 06 CORSA 1-0 LIFE ECO AUTO PAS 5DR STAR SILVER 24000 MILES £5495
06 06 CORSA 1-0 LIFE ECO AUTO PAS 5DR STAR MAUVE 26000 MILES £5495
03 53 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 14000MILES £5495

DAIHATSU

06 06 DAIHATSU CHARADE 1-0 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 12000 MILES £4995

SUZUKI

07 57 GRAND VITARA 2-0 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES £11995
06 06 SUZUKI IGNIS 1-5 GL 5 DR AUTO PAS CATS EYES BLUE 15000 MILES £5995
05 55 SUZUKI SWIFT 1-3 GLX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GREY 16000 MILES £7495
02 51 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 2-0 DIESEL AUTO PAS SILVER 50000 MILES £4995

HONDA

06 06 HONDA CR-V EXECUTIVE AUTO PAS SAT NAV LEATHER 19000MILES £13995

KIA

06 56 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5DR AUTO PAS MET BLUE 10000 MILES £5995
06 56 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5DR AUTO PAS MET BLUE 21000 MILES £5995

TOYOTA

08 08 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR ALLOYS BLACK 8000 MILES £9495
07 57 YARIS 1-3 ZINC 3 DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLACK UNDER 800 MILES £8995
07 57 AYGO 1-0 PLUS 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 2000 MILES £7495
06 56 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C MET SILVER 15000 MILES £9995
06 56 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C MET SILVER 6000 MILES £9995
06 06 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 T3 AUTO PAS SILVER 6000 MILES £8495
05 05 TOYOTA YARIS 1-0 T SPIRIT AUTO PAS ICE BLUE 17000 MILES £6995
04 54 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 T3 AUTO PAS CHAMPAGNE 6000 MILES £7495
04 04 COROLLA 1-6 T SPIRIT 3 5 DR AUTO AIR/C MET SILVER 24000 MILES £6995
03 53 TOYOTA YARIS 1-3 T SPIRIT AUTO PAS GREEN 8000 MILES £5995
02 02 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 GLS AUTO PAS SILVER 22000 MILES £5995

NISSAN

08 08 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA + 5 DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 MILES £8995
08 08 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA R 5 DR AUTO PAS BLACK MET 2000 MILES £9995
08 08 NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5 DR AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 8000 MILES £9995
07 57 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 MILES £8995
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 5000 MILES £7495
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 15000 MILES £7495
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SVE 3 DR AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 23000 MILES £6995
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SVE 3 DR AUTO PAS ICE BLUE 12000 MILES £6995
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 11000 MILES £6495
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 18000 MILES £6495
03 53 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 5 DR AUTO PAS WHITE DIAMOND 14000 MILES £4995
03 03 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 3 DR AUTO PAS 14000 MILES £3995
99 V NISSAN MICRA 1-0 PROFILE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C 70000 MILES £2695

SKODA

08 58 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 6000 MILES £9495
08 08 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C CHAMPAGNE 5000 MILES £8995

CHEVROLET

09 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 900 MILES £7995
08 08 CHEVROLET KALOS 1-4 SX 5DR AUTO PAS POLY SILVER 10000MILES £6495
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 10000 MILES £4995
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE AUTO PAS 5 DR BLUE 12000 MILES £4995
06 56 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 17000MILES £5995
06 06 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR BLUE 8000MILES £5495
06 06 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 10000MILES £5495

VOLKSWAGEN

07 07 VW POLO 1-4 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C MET GREY 7000 MILES £8995
07 07 VW POLO 1-4 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 7000 MILES £8995
06 06 VW GOLF 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C GREY METALLIC 10000 MILES £10995
05 55 VW POLO 1-4 S 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER JUST 10000 MILES £7495

ASTRA

08 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE BLUE 12000 MILES £8995
08 08 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS HATCH ULTRA BLUE 20000 MILES £8995
08 08 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS HATCH ULTRA BLUE 20000 MILES £8995
08 08 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 12000 MILES £8495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE METRO BLUE 14000 MILES £8995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 17000 MILES £7995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR 5 DOOR TURQUOISE UNDER 300 MILES £8495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN LIFE AUTO PAS ESTATE MET GREY 7000 MILES £8495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR 15000 MILES £7495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE PANACOTTA 6000 MILES £7495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR METRO BLUE 14000 MILES £7495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR TURQUOISE 10000 MILES £7995
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR SILVER 40000 MILES £7995
07 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 17000 MILES £6495
06 56 ASTRA 18 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR PANNACOTTA 17000MILES £6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR STAR SILVER 8000 MILES £6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR METRO BLUE11000MILES £6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 12000 MILES £7995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C RED METALLIC 19000 MILES £6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR HATCH PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 7000 MILES £6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO AIR 5 DR ESTATE ULTRA BLUE 18000M £7495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR ULTRA 8000 MILES £7995
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 12000 MILES £6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 20000 MILES £6495
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(1) Typical finance example for 4 years 0% APR Typical.

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Matthew Beech

Vauxhall keeps hold of its winning feature

FULL marks to Vauxhall for retaining the headline feature on the concept car for its second generation Meriva compact MPV.

Like many observers, I reckoned the General Motors brand would 'bottle it' and drop rearward-opening rear doors on the production version.

Instead, the FlexDoors stayed to enhance sharp styling that echoes Vauxhall's 2009 stars, the Insignia and Astra, and tempt young families – mums with babies will love how those rear doors open to nearly 90 degrees.

Mindful that such doors used to be known as 'suicide doors' Vauxhall has also made the FlexDoors lock automatically as soon as the car pulls away.

Cube calls shots in cult car wars?

NISSAN has fired the opening shots in a cult car war that can only get messier as buyers look for more style rather than size, performance and waste.

The Japanese marque launches its Cube model this month to attack current cult kings like the BMW Mini and Fiat 500.

Priced from £14,000, the Cube has been a phenomenon in Japan for 10 years and we are getting the third generation model. At 2.53m, it is shorter than a Ford Fiesta supermini yet wide for good passenger and load space.

Nissan – now the UK's largest carmaker – claims the Cube seats five in "lounge-like comfort". A sliding rear bench can be raised 'theatre'-style for those behind to look over the heads of those in front.

Superb riposte to the Germans

THIS should put the cat amongst the pigeons – a cut-price estate to challenge expensive German models.

The new Skoda Superb Estate might not be able to match the badge cachet of equivalent BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz or even that of Volvo, but it will come with a lavish quality and specification when it goes on sale on February 26, from just £17,715.

This brings class-leading legroom and boot space too, says the VW-

owned Czech marque with a choice of three petrol and three diesel engines.

The entry powertrain is the turbocharged 125bhp 1.4 TSI petrol engine with a tempting price that starts at just over £1,000 more than the existing Superb saloon/hatchback.

There is also a cut-price Audi A6 Avant option in the 260bhp 3.6-litre V6 4x4 estate with the VW group's classy DSG 'box – the auto that can be driven as a manual – though most buyers will surely check out the diesel line-up, also including a 4x4 version.

Cube's vast expanse of glass, including its unique wraparound window, allows greater visibility and creates a sense of space and light. Discover a new perspective on driving in Cube, where great design meets purpose.

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All prices include £55 first registration fee and road fund licence. Model shot shown is for illustration purposes only. Information correct at time of going to press. Refer to dealer for exact specification. This advert supersedes any previously advertised offers. This offer is not available in conjunction with any other offer. Models subject to availability. Cube shown has optional metallic paint at £400 including VAT. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.

Kia playing warranty war games

by STEVELOADER

KIA has thrown down the gauntlet at the start of 2010, by extending its unique seven-year/100,000-mile warranty to all models.

This has the potential to start a punch-up in its own backyard with its Korean running mate Hyundai – which 'only' offers five-years/unlimited across the board – as well as all-out war with carmakers adhering to an industry norm of just three years/60,000 miles.

Kia's seven-year guarantee was previously available only on European-built Ceed family hatchback and Sportage SUV models, but now applies to every model from the Picanto city car to the range-topping Sorento SUV.

Kia Europe chief operating officer Paul Philpott said: "We have already declared our intention to become the world's number one carmaker for customer satisfaction and our new seven-year Kia warranty on all models is a major step towards achieving that goal."

The warranty applies to cars sold and registered after January 1, is transferable to subsequent owners within the relevant period and is currently unmatched by any other carmaker.

There is no mileage limit for the first three years, except for vehicles used as taxis and the overall mileage limit over seven years is 100,000 miles.

Other qualifications that apply include: paintwork (five years depending on model), audio (three years and 60,000 miles) and service parts, accessories and batteries (two years).

As with most warranties, normal 'wear and tear' on tyres, brake pads and clutch linings is excluded.

GOOD DEAL: The successful Ceed (pictured left) set the precedent for Kia's seven-year warranty when it launched in 2007, while the Korean carmaker's products are on the up, too – the classy looking Venga (right) supermini/MPV is expected here before the spring

DRIVING COMMENT

I PREDICTED last summer that a 'warranty war' was in the offing as UK motorists tightened their belts for the recession.

The Government's Scrappage grant scheme – which actually benefits UK PLC very little as far as I can see, but helps foreign brands and their own workers a lot – also ends in March unless the Government extends it as window dressing ahead of the May/June election.

So carmakers will need a new edge post-Scrappage and better warranties are a way of apparently offering more without cutting prices, while also putting pressure on less efficient rivals.

The Korean sisters, Hyundai and Kia, have been keenly priced for some time and better warranties honed their sales pitch, though their products have improved, too.

Meanwhile, established rivals have operated a kind of 'warranty cartel' with three-years/60,000-miles being the norm and looking increasingly poor value against the Koreans.

Some carmakers back their engineering with unlimited mileage on the three years – Aston Martin, BMW, Bentley, Daihatsu, Jaguar, Land Rover, Mercedes-Benz, Mitsubishi and Smart – while Honda places a 90,000-mile limit on the three years.

Rolls-Royce goes one better with a four-year/unlimited deal, but even this looks poor when 'Rollers' start at £265,500 – enough to buy more than 40 of Hyundai's new five-year/unlimited i10 city cars.

And shame on Porsche – just two years/unlimited for a company priding itself on its engineering prowess?

Steve Loader

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Matiz 0.8 S 5dr: Urban - 43.5 (6.5), Extra-urban - 68.9 (4.1), Combined - 56.5 (5.0). CO2 emissions 119g/km.
Vehicle shown features mica paint available at extra cost of £325. 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £249. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Savings against current man. rec. price and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 31st January 2010. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev79242). Scrappage Allowance subject to eligibility, please ask for terms and conditions.

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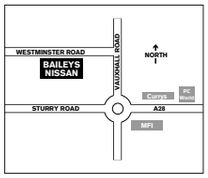

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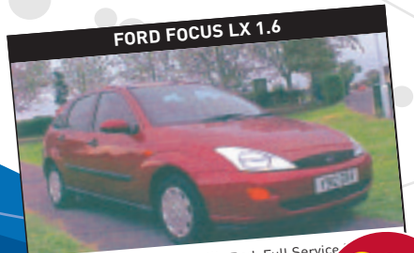

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Weathering the storms as the taxman cometh

By **ANDY ROGERS**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IN A BLEAK week for Kent weather, county businesses have had fiscal climate warnings, too.

The biggest storm front is expected from the taxman as he comes under Government pressure to claw back some of the massive debt now burdening UK plc.

Sue Hidson, Kent tax manager at accountants and business advisers Horwath Clark Whitehill, said: "Along with tax rate increases we can expect HM Revenue and Customs to enforce rules more rigorously and put businesses under the microscope. This will affect all taxpayers, particularly in the corporate sector where the Government will be less concerned about losing votes.

"HMRC recently started a programme of risk reviews for larger corporate businesses. Where a business can be classed as low risk there will be a light touch on compliance.

"However, companies unwilling to co-operate in the risk review process or which do not rank as low risk can expect the taxman to pay close attention to their affairs."

She predicted the clampdown would cover all taxes, with HMRC deploying experts on corporation tax, accounting systems and regulations, VAT and employee taxes.

"Expect HMRC specialists to arrive on the doorstep wanting to talk about all aspects of your business, including its structure, the commercial environment, accounting and control systems.

"While a group can refuse to participate in a risk review process, that may result in a very suspicious tax inspector going down more formal inquiry avenues to get the details he or she requires."

WARNING: Taxation expert Sue Hidson

The weather itself could also clobber businesses says the British Insurance Brokers' Association (Biba), which wants to Government help to publicise firms' poor preparation against incidents like the pre-Christmas floods and this week's icy disruption, as well as fire, acts of terrorism or a pandemic such as swine flu.

Research shows 45 per cent of businesses have scant or no plans to deal with such incidents, despite the fact that 80 per cent of businesses hit by the UK floods of 2007 closed within 18 months.

The research also showed that few directors are aware of BS25999 in relation to Business Continuity Management – the British standard to help minimise work disruptions. Biba advises businesses to:

- Have plans to replace machines, equipment and stock;
- Consider the impact of losing your computer or telephone system for three days;
- Organise how you would cope in the first hour after a disaster;
- Consider the effects upon your business if a major supplier or customer suffered a disaster;
- Plan for continued operation of the business if 50 per cent of staff were off sick;
- Discuss continuity planning with your insurer.

But there was a brighter outlook on the employment front with permanent staff placements growing at their fastest since July 2007 and temp/contract staff billings rising at their sharpest for 30 months, according to the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC) and KPMG Report on Jobs.

Those already in work value their job more, too, according to research by Water Wellpoint, with few tempted to 'throw a sickie' after the Christmas and New Year holiday.

In recent years, 13 out of 20 of the most popular days for absence occurred in January, but findings showed 96 per cent of workers saying they would not call in sick after the festive holidays.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

A creative edge in celebration of Nelsonian spirit

ONE of Chatham Historic Dockyard's newest – yet oldest – buildings celebrates a successful first year in the coming week.

The Joiners Shop is Grade-II listed and a scheduled ancient monument more than two centuries old, sympathetically restored and reborn as a 'centre for creative business' managed by Basepoint.

It already has 80 per cent of its 44 units/1,000sq m of office and workshop space occupied and a celebration will be held on Wednesday.

Among those attending will be men who worked in the joiners shop before closure of the Royal Naval base and its revitalisation by the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust. They will be joined by tenants and staff from the South East England Development Agency (Seeda), which co-funded the £3.3 million restoration.

Allison Sweeney, centre manager for Basepoint, said: "We're delighted The Joiners Shop has attracted such a wide mix of creative businesses in its first year, from web and graphic designers, architects, IT support, to specialist printers and engravers."

Seeda executive director Lee Amor said: "The Joiners Shop is providing the much-needed infrastructure to encourage and support creative businesses."

The Joiners Shop comprises small studios, workshops, office units and communal facilities, with Basepoint providing on-site management, high-speed internet access, free parking, business support and signposting.

• ***The late 18th century building once supplied Nelson's Navy, which had many ships built at Chatham, including the admiral's flagship, HMS Victory.***

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A juicy blend of innovation and acumen from Harvey

EASY RIDER: Youngsters give the Move 'n' Smooth blender bike the thumbs up, to the delight of company director Harvey Smith, who also owns PlayBay in Broadstairs

To see this, search 'smooth' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Move 'n' Smooth's Harvey Smith talks to Julie Maddocks about his plans for the future

By **TOM BETTS**
tom.betts@kosmedia.co.uk

NEW business Move 'n' Smooth is making inroads into ethical business by highlighting the benefits of thinking about what you eat and how you get there.

Harvey Smith, a children's play area owner from Broadstairs, came up with the winning idea to attach blender machines to bikes last year, turning them into giant smoothie makers using pedal power alone.

Three years earlier, tired of commuting by train to work in London each day, Mr Smith had opted out and set up PlayBay on the town's seafront.

He made a healthy start by deciding not to sell junk food at the premises from day one, and his cycle/blenders led to him founding Move 'n' Smooth as a follow-up.

He said: "I just thought it was a good cause to draw attention to, because eating healthily and getting exercise is such an important thing, especially for youngsters.

"The environmental aspect is important to us too, as this obviously uses no electricity and encourages people to get in the saddle."

Judges at the KOS Media £1 million Business Challenge Awards agreed – Move 'n' Smooth won the New Business Product trophy.

Mr Smith, 43, also scooped £150,000 of free advertising and marketing and aims to use it to expand Move 'n' Smooth.

SHAKE ON IT: Harvey Smith, left, director of Move 'n' Smooth, receives his award from Mike Adams, MD of Adams Creative

He was surprised to win though. "The calibre of the competition was great so I was shocked when we won, but it's very encouraging for us," he said, also recalling the fledgling company's modest beginnings.

"I enlisted the help of a local character, Dave, to adapt the bikes. I gave him the design for a prototype and a few weeks later he had one finished.

"He's done a great job and continues to make them. We now have several sizes and models with more on the way as we expand."

He may also adapt a rowing machine to blend fruit like the bikes, while a recipe book for smoothie concoctions is on the cards.

The project has been taken into schools and hospitals all over Kent, but Mr Smith added: "I would like to create a much larger schools programme. I see that as the future for us.

"The Government is trying to get kids to do 60 minutes' exercise a week, so perhaps we could tie in with that in some way.

"If people come along and get some exercise and have some fun then we are getting somewhere. It's what we aim to promote and hope people take notice."

Visit www.movensmooth.com for more information.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Rediscovering British food

HERE'S a good New Year's resolution – resolve to buy British food. Together, we can then use consumer power to persuade supermarkets to stock more UK-produced food, ***writes Pat Crawford***.

Kent consumers would also be backing a Hadlow College-led seasonality campaign, perhaps making 2010 the year British food was rediscovered in a big way.

It could also be significant for reducing carbon emissions resulting from 'food miles' while boosting the overall UK economy and the rural sector in particular. It would also help conserve our countryside and bring knock-on benefits for wildlife and biodiversity.

There is another important factor worth considering in relation to where we obtain our meat, eggs and other animal-related food.

We are a nation of animal lovers. Indeed, cynics in other countries are wont to say we treat animals better than children. Our livestock husbandry standards are the highest in the world and cases of downright cruelty are rare.

We also have the option of buying meat, poultry and eggs produced to RSPCA or similar welfare standards, a big consideration for many. The rural sector is sometimes dismissed as irrelevant and anachronistic. In fact, bearing in mind a workforce of about half a million – excluding seasonal workers and those in support industries – we produce about 60 per cent of our food.

Our farmers and growers are capable of raising production further, but they need a larger, more skilled and flexible workforce.

Yet studying agriculture – at both degree and further education levels – became decidedly unfashionable during the lengthy period farming was in decline.

Fortunately, a revival is under way. Five years ago Hadlow, one of the UK's leading land-based colleges, had just two agriculture students – now there are more than a 100.

For most people, farming combines earning a living with a unique lifestyle. It is the latter that attracts 'second career' entrants looking for a change of direction and job satisfaction.

To learn more about Hadlow's second career Fresh Start programme, contact Sue White on 01732 853211.

CHILDREN at an Ashford school received a thrilling Christmas present when they learned local construction company GSE Group is to build and donate a new adventure playground to them.

Ashford Oaks School had previously hosted a visit from GSE Group directors and lobbied for a playground, seen as the missing item after a merger of the Ashford South and Oak Tree primary schools in 2008.

But they were pushing at an open door, according to GSE's Derek Gilburt. "We wanted to encourage pupils to participate at all stages of the project, so we challenged their school council to state a case for us to build the play area – without telling them we'd already agreed to do the work," he said.

"They needed no guidance from the staff in setting out their position and provided some fascinating points of view."

The result is a three-stage plan to bring a sense of adventure to the school and pupils have also been invited to visit GSE Plant to learn about the machinery used there.

The school's pastoral team manager Jane Marshall said news of the project was greeted by a huge cheer in assembly.

"It's a wonderful project and we are very grateful to the GSE Group for making it happen," she said.

"We are looking forward to working in partnership with this fantastically generous company."

TOURISM South East, the regional tourist board for South East England, has appointed Edwards Harvey PR and Marketing of Maidstone to provide public relations support for a pioneering campaign to attract more visitors to the countryside.

The Countryside 2010 project will encourage rural tourist attractions and operators across Kent and the South East to support the campaign, by contributing to a two-week (May 29-June 13) programme of mostly free events and activities.

Edwards Harvey managing director Pip Clarkson said: "It's great to be working with Tourism South East on this exciting new initiative, helping to encourage people to see the countryside in a new light and boost business for those operators taking part."

BUSINESS people are invited to the launch of the University of Greenwich at Medway's Business Innovation Group (BIG-Kent) at a networking breakfast on Tuesday.

Guests can learn about public sector contracts, particularly in manufacturing and engineering, London 2012 Olympics-related opportunities and public sector funding.

Speakers at the launch breakfast include the university's deputy vice-chancellor Professor Tom Barnes and its director of Engineering Research and Enterprise Dr Steve Woodhead; Tracey Manley, chief executive of Thames Gateway Chamber of Commerce; Ray Wynne of Kent and Medway Innovation and Growth Team; and Dr Martin Davies, director of Greenwich Research and Enterprise.

BIG-Kent has been established by the university in partnership with the Kent Invicta and Thames Gateway chambers of commerce. The networking breakfast, from7.30am until 9am, is in the Wardroom, Pembroke Building, University of Greenwich at Medway, Chatham Maritime.

To register for attendance, email C.S.Ahiekpor@gre.ac.uk or phone 020 8331 8799.

WEMBLEY WAY: FM Conway staff at work on the national stadium

FM Conway's expanding team

FM CONWAY, the award-winning highways maintenance, civil engineering and construction services provider, is expanding its operations with the acquisition of a 5.5 acre site at Erith.

The former Henkel Surface Technologies site, off Mulberry Way, will house the transportation, plant and workshop facilities now based at the company's HQ in Dartford and will see about 70 people working there. Managing director Michael Conway said: "The £2.6 million purchase of the new site, its offices and workshops will create more space at Dartford. Erith is close to the Thames and the M25 and should prove an invaluable addition as FM Conway continues to consolidate its position and pushes for further growth."

Since its foundation in 1961, FM Conway has become the leading business in its field in the South East and has contracts with many London boroughs.

Do yourself a CV favour

Christina Breaden

JOBLESS graduate numbers now exceed 100,000 – the result of the class of 2009 joining 70,000 already job-hunting, ***writes Christina Breaden***.

Those currently completing degrees are also polishing up their CVs. Tough times indeed, but is it impossible to get a job?

Not if you are willing to work hard, be flexible in what you are looking for and seek expert advice on your applications.

Here are my five key tips for anyone seeking work now:

• **Think about all the skills you developed at university:**

You may be able to demonstrate excellent teamwork, decisiveness or problem-solving skills through academic work, but it's more likely you developed these on the sports field, working on a college drama production, or raising money for rag week.

You must tell prospective employers about these things. Many people get filtered out because it looks as though they never stepped outside the classroom. Businesses want people they will enjoy working with and need to hear about extra-curricular stuff.

• **Tailor each application:**

Don't fire off the same CV and covering letter to every job. Every application must be tailored. Yes, it's hard work, but this is what it takes. Research each company and demonstrate this in your cover letter. Quotes like: "Recent results showing how the company has bounced back from the recession" can work a treat.

• **Get help:**

Careers services are a good starting point. Use your own university, but local universities will often help even if you didn't attend.

There are also companies (such as IdiomEdge) offering specialised help to graduates with every aspect of the application process.

At the very least, have someone proof-read every application you do before sending it off.

• **Be flexible:**

Yes, start by applying to your ideal job, but consider other roles you could take that will help you get to your favoured role/career/company within the next two to three years. Don't be choosy about where you are based. You can always get a transfer to glamorous London once you've proved yourself.

• **Work hard at it:**

But ensure you make the time to do other things as well. If you only do applications all day every day, you will soon become de-motivated.

• ***Christina Breaden founded IdiomEdge to help graduates with all aspects of the application process. She has helped many improve CVs, cover letters and application forms, and offers interview and assessment centre training, practice and feedback. Visit www.IdiomEdge.co.uk for more details.***

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Timeline

KOS Media sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 100 years

1910

100 YEARS AGO: THERE was a major shock in the Kent Senior Cup as the Kent League leaders, Sittingbourne, crashed out of the competition after a 2-1 defeat away to Maidstone United.

It was a minor miracle that the game went ahead at all, after the original referee, who was travelling down from Charlton, got stuck at Dartford when his train broke down.

A linesman stepped in but a 'neutral' replacement had to be recruited from the crowd to run the line.

The Stones themselves had to make an emergency call to bring in Chilman from nearby Aylesford after they found themselves with only 10 men and the game kicked off 30 minutes late because Sittingbourne were delayed.

The Brickies, wearing the red and black colours they still sport today, were held 1-1 at half-time, but were put under sustained pressure at the start of the second-half, conceding what proved to be the winner to Coulter, despite laying siege to the Maidstone goal late on.

In the same competition 1,500 fans saw Dartford beat Gravesend United at Watling Steet and a late winner from Nash gave Northfleet a thrilling 3-2 win over Sheppey.

1960

50 YEARS AGO: FRANK Sands of Aylesford Paper Mills retained his Kent Cross Country title after triumphing over a gruelling seven-mile circuit at Knole Park in Sevenoaks.

Sands managed to complete the course in 42 minutes 14 seconds, three seconds behind the mark he set when he won the 1959 title at Farningham.

He was 20 seconds clear of the second-placed runner, A Weeks-Pearson of Blackheath, and a further 20 seconds ahead of the bronze medallist, J Morrison of Dartford.

Former world record holder for the mile, Sydney Wooderson, the 1938 champion, started the race at the age of 45, though where he finished is unrecorded.

1985

25 YEARS AGO: KEITH Peacock (pictured) was forced to deny Gillingham had a disciplinary problem, after two players were sent off as the Gills suffered a 2-0 defeat away to AFC Bournemouth.

Terry Cochrane was dismissed for "abusive language" and Dave Shearer followed suit for a second cautionable offence.

Tough-tackling midfielder Dave Mehmet was one of a number of players booked and the resulting suspensions left Gills boss Peacock with a diminished squad, with star striker Tony Cascarino and goalkeeper Ron Hillyard both out injured.

If you have any fascinating stories from the above years gone by, email them to our sports editor at **glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk**

The Fry life

It is a quarter of a century since Barry Fry, one of the most colourful managers in the history of football, began a brief, ill-fated but always eventful stint as manager of Maidstone United. FRED ATKINS looks back at Fry's one and only job in Kent – the one that gave him heart failure

CHARACTER: Barry Fry said Maidstone United were "the Manchester United of semi-professional football in this country" when asked why he took the job as boss

HE WAS nicknamed 'Mr Bojangles,' Ron Atkinson gave him his old jewellery, the police once asked him if he could identify a headless and legless corpse, and he threatened to break Harry Redknapp's legs.

It's 25 years since Barry Fry was appointed manager of Maidstone United, ushering in one of the most eventful periods in the club's history, even by the Stones' turbulent standards.

Asked why he'd taken the job, Fry's reply was instant: "Maidstone United are, quite simply, the Manchester United of semi-professional soccer in this country."

It sounded only marginally less hyperbolic at the time, but as a former Manchester United trainee and one of George Best's oldest friends, Fry was at least well-qualified to judge.

And the job – replacing Bill Williams as the manager of the reigning Alliance Premier League champions – was coveted.

Contract blunder

Fry, then manager of Barnet, saw off 30 other applicants for the position, including Alan Mullery, Malcolm MacDonald and Malcolm Allison.

Yet United were a team in decline and Fry arguably accelerated this by bringing in a host of mediocre players.

He wasn't helped when star midfielder Mark Newson, whom he valued at £300,000, joined Redknapp's Bournemouth for free, after a contract blunder.

When Redknapp called him "out of courtesy" Fry made his threat, though by his own admission: "I laughed about it the next day because I would have done exactly the same thing myself."

Chairman Jim Thompson took it less well, saying he had friends in high places who would make sure the future West Ham and Tottenham manager would never get another job.

Whether or not this contributed to the heart attack Fry suffered on the training ground isn't certain, but although his health recovered, his relationship with Thompson didn't.

Fry had worked with worse, specifically Dunstable's Keith Cheeseman whom the police once suspected, falsely, had been dismembered.

They asked Fry if he would recognise him without his head or legs, to which he quipped: "I didn't know him that well."

But he vehemently opposed Thompson's planned move to Dartford and midway through the following season, he was sacked.

Yet despite spawning the song: "He's fat, he's round, he tried to take us down," Fry is remembered fondly by most Maidstone fans, because, as Sir Alex Ferguson wrote, it's impossible to think of him without smiling.

When a Peterborough fan later berated him for the team's slide towards relegation, Fry replied: "When I took over I promised I would get us out of the division. I just didn't say which way."

London Club to 'knock spots off Wentworth'

OUTGOING London Club general manager Heath Harvey believes everything is in place to overtake Wentworth as the region's leading golf resort.

Harvey's six-year tenure came to an end last month at the golf club near Ash, which has enjoyed a rapid growth in profile in recent years. Following on from the success of hosting three events on the Senior Tour, the Heritage Course hosted the European Open in 2008 and 2009.

Plans are now in place to build a hotel onsite to significantly upgrade facilities, which Harvey believes will see the London Club take over from Surrey's Wentworth to become the leading golf destination in the South East.

He said: "I think when the hotel is built the only thing Wentworth will have over the London Club will be a longer history of hosting tournaments. Other than that I don't think it will rival Wentworth, it'll knock spots off it."

The highlight for Harvey, who had previously held a similar position at Chart Hills, near Ashford, was last year's European Open, helped by a groundbreaking free ticket scheme for all four days of the tournament, with 91,000 coming through the gates.

Harvey has now departed to take over as director of Club Wembley, which runs the exclusive hospitality facilities at the national stadium.

DEPARTING: Heath Harvey was London Club general manager for six years

Naomi bidding for debut Down Under

A FIRST appearance at the Australian Open is on the line for Naomi Cavaday (pictured) next week, when qualifying begins for the first major tennis tournament of the year.

The 20-year-old will find out her first-round opponent when the draw is made at Melbourne Park tomorrow.

If the Sidcup-born player makes it through to the main draw alongside the likes of Serena Williams and the returning Justine Henin, it will be the first time she has qualified for one of the sport's four major tournaments.

The British number five's only experiences of a major have been three appearances at Wimbledon, which have come courtesy of wild cards.

Cavaday finished last season in reasonable form, reaching a career-high world ranking of 183 in November. She has been in Australia since before the New Year, but her preparations were disrupted by a defeat in qualifying for the Brisbane International, a warm-up tournament for the Open.

The main tournament begins on January 18.

As the cold snap continues to bite across Kent, DAVID PRITCHARD examines its potentially long-lasting effect for the county's senior football clubs

WEEKS of freezing temperatures are taking their toll on the already precarious finances of the county's non-league football clubs.

Every club in Kent has suffered financially as a result of the wintry blast, which has ravaged fixture lists since mid-December. While postponed games always incur a cost to the home side, this cold snap has come at the worst possible time, coinciding with the festive period when local derbies bring in some of the biggest crowds of the season.

With falling attendances already a big concern for clubs, Barry Bright, chairman of the Kent County FA and vice-chairman at the FA, believes the impact could be huge.

He said: "You'll not get back the same numbers for rearranged midweek games as you would over a bank holiday at Christmas and New Year, even for the local derbies that everyone yearns for."

Derbies that did go ahead on Boxing Day illustrate the attraction of the festive games. Folkestone's home game against Ashford attracted 522, by far the biggest of the season and 70 per cent higher than the average league game at Cheriton Road, which would have come as a major shot in the arm for a club that have been struggling financially.

Whitstable Town have been one of the hardest hit, losing three home games over the festive period, including derbies with Sittingbourne and Ramsgate.

Chairman Joe Brownett said: "I can't remember a year where we haven't been able to play at Christmas and New Year. For Ramsgate we had about 400 programmes printed which will now be collector's items. It's a frustrating time, hopefully it'll end soon."

The ground with the worst record has been Ashford Town's Homelands. The Nuts and Bolts have only played five league games at home all season and have had six games called off since December 2.

Artificial pitches

Maidstone United share the ground and have had the longest running single game. Their FA Trophy first round tie with Histon was originally scheduled for December 12, but has since been postponed five times.

Stones chairman Paul Bowden-Brown despairs at the situation and believes it is time the sport looked to artificial 3G pitches, which were part of the club's original plans for their new ground in the county town.

He said: "We reduced our budget in the summer but if it had been at the same level as a year ago this would've taken us down. My investors and I wouldn't have been able to pay the players.

"You have to come to the conclusion that we have to look at what we play on. That's why we initially wanted a 3G pitch, which would stop 99 per cent of these problems."

Bucking the trend, Dover Athletic are the only club to have played all their scheduled games in the last six weeks. The Whites' decision to rent pitch covers for the winter has largely paid off, as their meeting with St Albans on December 19 was the only non-league game in the region to go ahead.

DIGGING IN: Gillingham groundstaff get to work on the Priestfield Stadium pitch

POSTPONEMENTS
DECEMBER 1 TO JANUARY 9

TEAM	GAMES LOST TOTAL	GAMES LOST HOME
Gillingham	2	1
Ebbsfleet United	2	2
Bromley	3	1
Dover Athletic	1	0
Welling United	2	1
Cray Wanderers	3	2
Dartford	2	1
Maidstone United	6	5
Margate	5	2
Tonbridge Angels	4	2
Ashford Town	6	6
Chatham Town	3	2
Folkestone Invicta	3	1
Ramsgate	4	1
Sittingbourne	6	6
Whitstable Town	4	3

Chairman Jim Parmenter is pleased with their impact, which will help avoid fixture congestion, but admitted they did not work in all conditions.

He said: "The covers have done the job so far, but once the temperature gets down to minus three or four you need a heat system, which costs £5,000 a game."

With few clubs in a position to buy or rent the covers, which cost thousands, many are powerless. With fewer resources than those above, the Kent League's programme has also been badly affected, even with a break on games over Christmas. Most clubs have not kicked a ball in anger for almost a month.

GAME ON: Dover Athletic splashed out and rented pitch covers to protect the Crabble

GAME OFF: Tunbridge Wells were unable to protect their playing surface from snow

Joe Croker, chairman at Tunbridge Wells, said: "There's nothing we could afford that would help protect the playing surface, but it's a lot more than the pitch we're worried about, it's about making the whole stadium safe."

Picture: EUFC

WARNING: Duncan Holt says 2010 will be a hard going for Ebbsfleet United

Fleet chief predicts a tough year

ANOTHER year of struggle lies ahead for Ebbsfleet United, according to chairman Duncan Holt, who says the next month is a pivotal one for the club, ***writes Steve Tervet***.

Having voted in December to raise annual subscription rates to £50 or £100, members of the MyFootballClub website, which owns the Fleet, are due are due to renew their payments on February 19.

After it was announced the club could be sold if too few members renewed, the immediate future of the Fleet now hangs in the balance and Holt acknowledged the significance of the next few weeks.

"This is a big month for the club," he said. "February 19 is when the majority of memberships come up for renewal – between two and three thousand, so that's a really important date.

Troubles

"I know it's a broad figure but we need between 2,500 and 4,500 people subscribing in total. If we could get towards the top end of that, or even towards 5,000, that would be brilliant. MyFC would definitely rather go down the 'more money, less members' route."

Despite the club's off-field troubles this season, manager Liam Daish has brought about a change in form with the Fleet climbing away from the foot of the Blue Square Premier.

Having failed in his quest to sign a striker on loan before Christmas, Daish is again on the hunt for an attacking addition to his squad, with Holt confirming the funds remained at his disposal.

He said: "Liam has £9,000 to get a striker in between now and the end of the season. He had the money before, but he's quite finicky about what he wants and he couldn't find the right person.

"It's difficult because we're relying on other clubs releasing people and they may only do that when they've brought someone in themselves."

Picture: ADY KERRY

PICKED: Ashley Jackson is off to Poland

Duo aim to give England boost

ASHLEY Jackson and Natalie Seymour will be aiming to help England to promotion next week as the national side's men and women head to the EuroHockey Indoor Nations competitions.

Both Kent players are established in England's outdoor teams but are relative newcomers to the indoor format and will be making their EuroHockey indoor debut.

Jackson, 22, is among the 12-man squad heading to Poland for the three-day tournament, which starts on Friday. The set-piece specialist is in prolific form, netting 10 goals in three games against Scotland before Christmas.

If the Chatham-born midfielder can maintain his form in Poznan, Poland, England have a good chance of winning their second successive promotion, which would take them back into the top flight.

The tournament will act as a warm-up for the outdoor World Cup in India next month. Jackson, who used to play for Tunbridge Wells, is almost certainly guaranteed a place in the squad, which will be announced on Wednesday.

Canterbury's Seymour, 23, and the rest of England's women are heading to Rouen, France, for their tournament, which is the third division of women's indoor hockey. They will be looking to go one better than two years ago, when they lost in the final to Denmark.

Both competitions get under way on Friday and conclude next Sunday.

FRENCH FIELDS: Natalie Seymour in action

PLANS: An artist's impression of the new Medway Park sports facility

Sport complex on track for opening

CONFUSION concerning the completion date of Medway Park's sports complex has been cleared up by Medway council.

The £11.1 million revamp of the Black Lion Leisure Centre in Gillingham into a hub of sporting excellence is nearing completion. The project's website states work will finish in January, but a press release from the council before Christmas said it is not due to end until next month.

John Staples, media manager at Medway council, said the project is on schedule and believes the discrepancy is the difference between finishing construction and the official opening and re-branding of the site.

He said: "There's no delay, we've always been working towards an opening in February. The existing facilities at the Black Lion are still open for people to use."

Several parts of the refurbishment have long been completed, with the judo centre opening last February. When finished, it will include a new eight-lane athletics track, sports hall and gymnastics centre.

The first test of the facilities will come in April, when it hosts the British leg of the Modern Pentathlon World Cup.

It will also be used as a training camp ahead of the London 2012 Olympics, with the Barbados Paralympic team the first to agree a deal last year.

IMPRESSIVE: (l-r) Ben Kemp, Academy chief Phil Relf and John Williams

Seamers called up to Kent Academy

IMPRESSIVE performances in training have earned two promising youngsters a call-up to the Kent Academy for this year's senior programme.

Right-arm seamers Ben Kemp and John Williams caught the eye in county under-17 training and have earned their promotion into the Academy set-up.

The former, a pupil at St Edmunds School in Canterbury, plays for Sandwich and is the son of Nick Kemp, who played for Kent in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Williams plays his club cricket at Lordswood and goes to Thomas Aveling School in Rochester.

Phil Relf, Kent's Academy director, said: "Seam bowling is an area we are keen to develop as we have identified potential gaps in our playing staff in this department over the next few years.

"We will now be able to support them in greater detail, with guidance in some key areas such as technique, fitness and injury prevention."

Send all your sports stories to sports editor Glenn Pearson at **glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk** or call the sportsdesk on **01303 817183**

Key relishing start of new era at Kent

OPTIMISTIC: Kent skipper Rob Key is excited about the club's prospects for the future Picture: ADY KERRY

Skipper says the recent changes made off the pitch herald start of exciting new dawn for county cricket at St Lawrence

By GLENN PEARSON

AS HE approaches what will be his 13th season on the staff, Kent's longest-serving player of the current squad is preparing for the new season after a winter of change at St Lawrence.

Over the course of the winter, county skipper Rob Key has seen the club employ a new head coach, begin the process of searching for a new chief executive after Paul Millman's departure, and hopes to see work begin on the long-awaited redevelopment of the St Lawrence Ground.

Those changes, together with the news the club plan to play a 'home' Twenty20 game at Surrey's Brit Oval next summer, heralds the dawn of a new era for Kent, who also return to Division One of the County Championship after a year in the wilderness that is the championship's second tier.

Speculation

For Key, who signed a new deal towards the end of last season amid speculation he was being head hunted by Surrey cricket chief Chris Adams, a chance to lead the county into a new future is one he is looking forward to.

He said: "Generally you aren't worried too much about change, you just want to see things happen and things like the Oval game is a breath of fresh air and something to get excited about.

"Whatever trouble we have been in financially, we have always been able to push on from a cricket point of view and have done so with limited resources. Hopefully in the coming years we will get more [resources] with the ground development."

Key forged a good partnership with director of cricket Graham Ford over the last five years as the pair focused on streamlining the county staff to ensure they had the best available players for what has traditionally been a fairly small budget in county cricket terms.

IMPACT: New head coach Paul Farbrace

Ford departed in typically quiet fashion at the end of the summer with Paul Farbrace returning to the club as head coach. Farbrace, the county's former Academy director, has already made an impact on the squad, according to Key, who said the fact he is at the ground all year round is a major asset.

"Farby has a different style, but I do think having him here for the six months when we aren't playing cricket is a big thing, which is something we haven't had for a few years," he said.

"Fordy was excellent for the six months he was here but then it was up to myself and Simon Willis to kind of fend for ourselves a little bit. Farby seems to be doing everything and he has been fantastic. He has looked at the youth set-up right the way up to professional cricket and he has been brilliant.

"I've seen changes in players in the nets which seems to have kicked them on already and most people are looking forward to playing again and most of that has to go down to Farby."

Olympic hero's academy dream

OLYMPIC track champion Jamie Staff is hoping to set up an academy in a bid to pass on vital skills to the next wave of aspiring young cyclists, ***writes Tom Howard.***

The 39-year-old, who won gold in the team sprint at the Olympics in Beijing last year, intends to help inspire the next generation once he retires with the construction of the Jamie Staff Academy.

The Ashford rider says the academy would be geared towards encouraging teenagers to use their bikes in Kent and hopes it could be built as part of the £11 million Cycle Park facility near the A2 in Gravesend.

The academy will not focus on just one area of the sport, but incorporate BMX, mountain biking, road racing and track cycling.

Staff believes the venture will attract more people into the sport and help create a legacy following from the success of the British cycling team at the Beijing Olympics.

MASTERCLASS: Jamie Staff hopes to pass on his winning expertise to young cyclists

He said: "I want to pass on the skills and knowledge I have picked up to younger riders. I am coming towards the end of my career and have sat down and decided I would like to go into coaching once I retire. I feel information, like how to deal with the psychological side of the sport, is an untapped area which needs to be taught to youngsters.

"We hope to base the academy in Kent because there is not an awful lot going on in the county for cycling. I would like to take part in some sessions and I hope some of the coaches from British Cycling will become a part of it too."

Staff, who insists he has no intention of retiring from the sport just yet, hopes his new concept could be up and running as early as autumn next year.

He added: "At the moment cycling is riding the crest of the wave from the Olympics, but academies like this need to be set up to keep people interested and get involved with the sport.

"There are similar academies beginning to emerge and if we're successful we could take it across the country, or even worldwide."

Look on the Bright side

Kent FA chairman Barry Bright looks back at the progress made during the last decade which has seen £20 million spent improving the county's pitches and facilities, but also warns senior clubs against reckless spending on players and the need to attract more fans through the turnstiles

WHEN I look back at this last decade, I'd like to think we have made great progress in terms of football in this county.

Girls' and women's football has moved forward a great deal with more than 160 teams affiliated to Kent, while we have also seen the creation of junior and adult disability football leagues in the county, which gives me a great sense of personal pleasure.

We have also seen huge investment into the county from the Football Foundation, with the Kent County Football Association (KCFA) assisting in acquiring £20 million of investment into football pitches and facilities since 2001.

Concerns

While it's fair to say that we have a bright future in football terms in Kent, there are still very real concerns about the future of senior clubs in the county who are struggling financially.

It appears we have some semi-professional clubs that, at the end of the day, are paying too much money to players, or not getting enough people through the turnstiles, or perhaps a combination of both.

There has to be a frugality as to how these clubs operate. The Inland Revenue are no longer going to allow football to be an entity that can be ignored and that has become worryingly apparant as they have come down hard on one or two clubs.

That means the club's management have to adopt a degree of common sense. We have to see a situation where players might not be able to demand so much money, or the clubs simply say no.

There has to be a hand on the tiller all the time, just to make sure the club remains for the supporters. The majority of these supporters are as loyal as the 70,000 that go to watch Manchester United every week and deserve their club to remain.

I worry about these clubs in their communities. I was delighted when Dartford stopped roaming around and were able to get back into Dartford thanks to the local authority. I yearn for Maidstone to come back into the county town. That club has had great years in the town and it concerns me greatly that taking clubs out of the community will potentially cause them long-term problems. The work they can do in their own towns from the very young to the not so young is very important.

There have been many clubs and leagues in the county that have gone by the wayside over the years and to stop that happening we need the next generation of volunteers to come along and help their clubs, and we need that desperately.

At the KCFA, we are able to help clubs by getting them good sound legal and business advice, and as chairman, I am always willing to sit down with the owners of clubs across the county anywhere, anytime, to discuss what we can do to help. What I can't do is write a cheque to pay for taxation debts and so forth.

One other area I am keen to see continued improvement is in refereeing. Over the last 10 years we have lost a lot of referees in the county who gave their time to the game. In my view, young footballers need to have qualified referees and we have begun to pull that back, but we need more.

I hope in my lifetime we will be able to have every game in the county officiated by a referee, what an achievement that would be. It won't be easy, but we have the capacity to do so.

• ***Barry Bright, chairman of the Kent County Football Association and vice-chairman of the FA, is one of Kent on Sunday's sports columnists.***

Topping out at new Kent HQ

THE Kent County Football Association held a topping out ceremony last week to celebrate a milestone in the construction of its new £1.2 million headquarters.

The building, based at Cobdown Sports & Social Club in Aylesford, is due for completion in July and will be the new home for Kent football and its 19-strong staff.

KCFA chairman Barry Bright (pictured during the ceremony) climbed a 15ft platform to put in place the last bolt necessary to secure the structure of the roof. The new building includes offices and conference rooms.

Bright said: "The deliverance of the Kent Football Strategy, covering all aspects of the game and the overall raising of standards, has created an urgent necessity for top-of-the-range administration and meeting facilities to enable the substantially increased skilled workforce to continue to provide first-class results, beneficial to all who seek recreation and fun in whatever their capacity in Kent football."

Gills set sights on new targets

GILLINGHAM have ruled out making approaches for former targets Chris Dickson and Paul Benson during the January transfer window, ***writes David Pritchard.***

The strikers, playing for Charlton and Dagenham & Redbridge respectively, were both high on the Gills' wish-list during the summer. Although the club are still in the market for a forward and both are in good form, neither are a possibility this month.

Dickson remains a long-term target, but with both Charlton and Dagenham chasing promotion, manager Mark Stimson is resigned to looking elsewhere.

He said: "Chris is back at Charlton now and playing for them. If he's doing that and they are going for promotion then I'm sure they're not going to let him come to us. In the summer he's a free transfer so if nothing happens now, we'll be very interested in the summer.

"[Benson's] not a possibility anymore, he's out of our range financially, so we have to move on."

As revealed on our website earlier this week, Scott Vernon has emerged as the front-runner to join on loan. An approach is expected once he makes a return from injury for the Essex club's reserves later this month.

The Gills boss will also speak with Manchester United striker Febian Brandy next week about renewing his loan deal, which ends next weekend, until the end of the season. A centre-half is also wanted to strengthen the squad following Matt Fry's early return to West Ham with a knee problem, while Stimson is also looking for a winger.

In the other direction there have been no enquiries. Adam Miller's spell at Dagenham expired this weekend and Stimson was expecting to make contact with the League Two club imminently to negotiate either an extension or transfer for the midfielder.

It has also stayed quiet so far for Simeon Jackson, who has been linked with a host of clubs since the summer. Stimson is desperate to keep his top scorer.

He said: "We just have to wait and hopefully nothing happens, because we'd like to keep him. With the games we've got left I think he'd score another 10 goals if he plays every game. There's not many strikers I could bring in who'd get that many by the end of the season."

FRONT-RUNNER: Scott Vernon could be set for a return to Priestfield Picture: ADY KERRY

NUMBER CRUNCH: Paul Scally

Scally pleased as club slashes budget deficit

RELEGATION into League Two did not unduly affect Gillingham off the pitch as their latest accounts show a cut in debt and a lower overall loss compared to the previous year.

The figures cover the 12 months up to May, 2009, during which time the club played their first season in the Football League's basement tier since 1996.

Turnover only fell by 1.7 per cent, while total losses, which were in excess of £1.65 million in 2008, were down to £255,689. Almost half a million was also knocked off the club's outstanding debt, which now stands at £3.19m.

In the chairman's statement, Paul Scally was pleased with the figures, which ended as the recession began to take hold.

He said: "In difficult and testing times, in which many clubs are facing huge financial difficulties, it is comforting to note our prudence in trading and cost control which will stand us in good stead as a business.

"Looking to the future we are optimistic that we can continue growth and consolidate our financial position and our short-term aim remain that of returning the club to Championship status."

It is almost five years since the club dropped out of the second tier, a period which has seen significant belt-tightening. Costs for wages and salaries for all staff have more than halved since 2005, much of which has come from the commercial department, which has shrunk from 51 staff to 12.

Next year supporters are unlikely to get such a clear picture of the club's finances, with the status changed from a public to a private limited company officially declared on Christmas Eve.

Picture: KEITH SLATER

WEATHER BEATEN: Gills were one of a number of clubs to have their game called off

Weather makes county a snow show for sport

WITH the big freeze tightening its grip on the county, virtually all of yesterday's sporting fixtures throughout Kent were wiped out by a blanket of snow and ice.

In League One, Gillingham's home game against Tranmere Rovers was called off on Thursday and Ebbsfleet United's Stonebridge Road ground failed a 9am inspection on Friday.

Maidstone United's FA Trophy second round tie against Blue Square Premier side Histon was postponed for the fifth time with Ashford Town's Homelands ground unplayable.

Despite the best efforts of Lancashire side Fleetwood Town, who used heated covers to preserve their pitch, Dover Athletic's Trophy trip to the north-west also failed to beat the weather.

Bromley and Welling United saw no action in Blue Square South and not a single game involving a Kent side went ahead in the Ryman League, with Ramsgate's Southwood Stadium the last fixture to fall.

Frozen pitches prevented a single ball being kicked by any of Kent's rugby clubs, with Blackheath, Canterbury and Westcombe Park all frozen out of National League action.

The fixtures will now begin to pile up for the county's London 1 South sides, with games at Aylesford, Beckenham, Gravesend, Maidstone and Thanet Wanderers all postponed.

In London 2 South East, the big west Kent derby between Tonbridge Juddians and Sevenoaks must now be rearranged with The Slade ground totally snow-covered.

The Kent County Cross Country Championships, due to be held at Detling Hill in Maidstone, were called off as early as Wednesday and not even the indoor hockey escaped punishment, with England Hockey opting to postpone all men's and women's fixtures nationwide.

• **See page 61 for how the big freeze has affected semi-professional clubs in Kent.**

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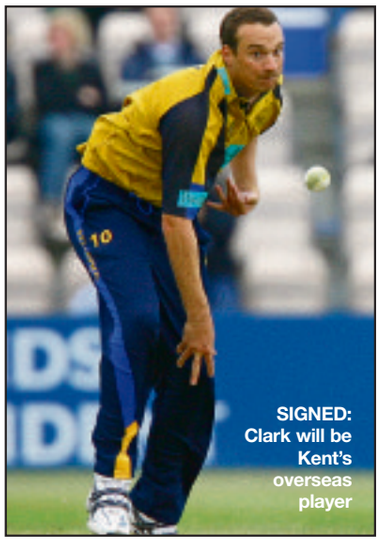
Aussie seamer signs as overseas star

KENT EYE CLARK'S RETURN



SIGNED: Clark will be Kent's overseas player

EXCLUSIVE

By **GLENN PEARSON**

TALKS are already underway with seam bowler Stuart Clark about coming back next year after the Australian signed as Kent's overseas player for the first half of this summer.

The county offered the 34-year-old a short-term contract before Christmas, which was exclusively revealed on our website kent-news.co.uk, which he got around to signing last week after getting the go-ahead from Cricket Australia.

The Australian right-arm seam bowler, who has 94 wickets from 24 Test matches for his country, has shrugged off a back injury that has kept him out of action for New South Wales of late and will be available to play for Kent as they prepare for a return to Division One of the County Championship.

The club's head coach, Paul Farbrace, also revealed to this newspaper that discussions have already begun with Clark about a return to St Lawrence, should he impress this summer.

"Stuart is hoping to play in the Indian Premier League in 2011, and we have had preliminary talks with him that if things go well this summer, then there maybe some possibility of him coming back at some stage next year," he said.

"He is a high quality player and a high quality bloke, and also the fact he is available from ball one of the summer because he is not playing in the IPL is a great thing for us."

While Clark, who was scheduled to join the county as their overseas player last summer before being called up to play for Australia, has put pen to paper on a deal, a spinner of international quality is the next player the club hope to tie down for the second half of the summer.

While Farbrace wouldn't be drawn on the identity of the club's overseas target, he did say he is "something different to what we have got" and that the player is involved in a current international series.

He is also keen to bolster the club's bowling ranks with two domestic seamers on his radar, although Farbrace did say Kent would only sign one of them.

"We have an overseas player in place for the second half, what we are still waiting on is a seamer option," he said. "We are still looking at bringing in one more seamer if we possibly can and we are still talking to the same two people we were before Christmas."

With regulations stating that counties can name two overseas players in this summer's revamped Friends Provident Twenty20, Kent are contemplating the idea of extending Clark's deal to include the competition. That would mean he teams up with the 'mystery' new spinner for the second half of the season, although that is still yet to be decided.

Farbrace said: "What we are not quite sure on is if we match up the spinner and Clark for Twenty20 or whether we have just the spinner for T20. It depends on whether we want to keep Clark for T20, or he gets called up for Australia. It's not going to be something we are going to be able to nail down in the next couple of weeks, but we also want to maintain an element of flexibility."

ADVERT WILL GO IN

KENT chairman George Kennedy insists an advert will be booked with the national press next week for the vacant chief executive job at St Lawrence.

The county are yet to advertise the post left by Paul Millman almost six weeks ago, but Kennedy said the club were going to put an advert out this week.

He was full of praise for acting chief executive Jamie Clifford who he said was "doing all the right things", but did divulge that the club had received three or four "high-class" applications that would be taken seriously.

He said: "We have been putting the word around in cricket circles and we will be putting something out in the press to see what the wider world has to offer."